



Charles shattered over valet's betrayal

### 'Assad prepares people for peace'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad is preparing his people for peace with Israel, a senior Israeli intelligence officer said here Tuesday. "President Assad is preparing his people for difficult decisions, which means peace with Israel," General Yaakov Ami Dror told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. Knesset sources said. "It is difficult for President Assad to accept that Syria must pay a price for an accord with Israel and to envision the Israeli flag flying on our embassy in Damascus," said Gen. Dror, who heads the analysis section of military intelligence. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said meanwhile that a meeting at "the highest level" would be necessary to push the negotiations forward between Syria and Israel. "Damascus insists that the meetings take place at ambassador level," Mr. Rabin said.

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### 'Red-Dead canal is more feasible'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Speaking at a meeting of the Washington Institute on the Middle East, Dr. Munther Haddadin, Jordan's representative in the Mideast Regional Development Working Group and a co-chairman of the Jordan Rift Valley development project, responded to a question from Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) news service regarding canal projects and nuclear desalination. On the issue of the canal, Dr. Haddadin said that they were awaiting a feasibility study in the fall. "The alternative Mediterranean Sea to Jordan River to Dead Sea is what Jordan would prefer," Dr. Haddadin said. "But you have to look at the economic and the environmental costs. In the Med-Dead alternative, the economic factors speak in its favour. If you add the environmental costs, it could become more expensive. In the Red Sea-Dead Sea alternative, the environmental factors are all favourable as are the demographic factors," said Dr. Haddadin.

### Sharif Zeid visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who is also defence minister, on Tuesday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Marei and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

### Major to tour Middle East

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major will visit Israel, the West Bank and Jordan in March, a spokesman said Tuesday. He will tour the areas between March 12 and 14, a spokesman at the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street said. An Israeli television report said that Mr. Major would also visit the Gaza Strip, but Mr. Major's spokesman said that was not yet firm.

### Jordan stresses refugees' rights

CAIRO (Petra) — Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Assem Ghosheh said Tuesday Jordan had exerted strenuous efforts to help the Palestinian people regain their rights, including the right to self-determination on their national soil. At a meeting of the supervisors of Palestinian affairs at the Arab League in Cairo, Mr. Ghosheh said the Kingdom did not spare any effort to help the Palestinians through all stages and developments of the Palestinian cause. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty included a clear phrasing on the need to resolve the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the international law, which is the main reference for solving international disputes, said Mr. Ghosheh, who underlined that the right of refugees to return was the main concern of the Jordanian government's policies.

### Israelis attend Mideast oil talks

MUSCAT (AFP) — Israeli officials were attending their first Middle East petroleum and gas conference to explore the possibility of future energy deals with Gulf Arab states, delegation head Yossi Lubaton said here Tuesday. "This is the first step in conducting some relationship between Israel and the countries of the region after... very long years that we did not talk," said Mr. Lubaton, a senior official at Israel's ministry of energy and infrastructure.

### Dini cabinet runs into trouble

ROME (AFP) — Prime Minister-designate Lamberto Dini ran into trouble Tuesday immediately after announcing his cabinet as outgoing Premier Silvio Berlusconi and his allies said they would vote against it in parliament and two cabinet appointees turned down the job offers. Mr. Berlusconi and his allies had pressed for Mr. Dini to include members of the outgoing government, but Mr. Dini refused, in particular a demand that Giano Letta, who served as undersecretary to the presidency, keep his job.

### Clinton cancels visit after bomb scare

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — President Bill Clinton canceled a scheduled tour of an earthquake-damaged university building Tuesday after Secret Service agents found three devices resembling pipe bombs, officials said. "The bomb squad was called at 7:40 a.m. after the Secret Service found three devices resembling pipe bombs. They are still there, that's all," said officer Rigo Romero, a spokesman for the Los Angeles police department. Mr. Clinton was to tour a building damaged during last year's earthquake at the California State University at Northridge when agents found the devices.

## 2,700 feared dead in massive Japan quake

KOBE, Japan (Agencies) — Japan's industrial heartland lay in ruins after a massive earthquake struck Tuesday, leaving more than 2,700 dead or missing and destroying the state of the art quake-proof bridges and rail-lines in three of the country's largest cities.

The quake was the biggest to hit Japan in nearly 47 years, striking a region where residents had previously felt safe from the quake peril.

The massive tremor, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck before dawn Tuesday at the cities of Kobe, Osaka and the former imperial capital of Kyoto.

As 3,000 troops poured into the city for the start of full search operations Wednesday, Yasuo Tanaka, head of emergency services for the Kobe municipal government, said the quake had

defied the worst imaginings of city officials.

"We are trying to do our best and had prepared for all kinds of natural disasters. But the scale was just beyond our belief," he told AFP.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama set up an emergency headquarters and promised government assistance for victims.

"We are now completing the drawing up of rough fi-

### No Jordanians reported hurt

AMMAN (J.T.) — No Jordanians were hurt in the earthquake which hit central Japan Tuesday morning, the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry said that it was informed by the Jordanian embassy in Tokyo that no Jordanians reside in

disaster area.

"We haven't heard anything as yet from Tokyo," said Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Ikuji Ikeda when asked whether the quake would have any impact on the Japanese Crown Prince's scheduled visit to Jordan starting on Jan. 26.

lumps of concrete from the rooftops with a giant's hand, and left steel reinforcement bars tangled like spaghetti.

Eighteen hours after the quake, the National Police Agency said 1,590 people were confirmed dead, and 1,017 were missing. At least 6,334 were listed as injured.

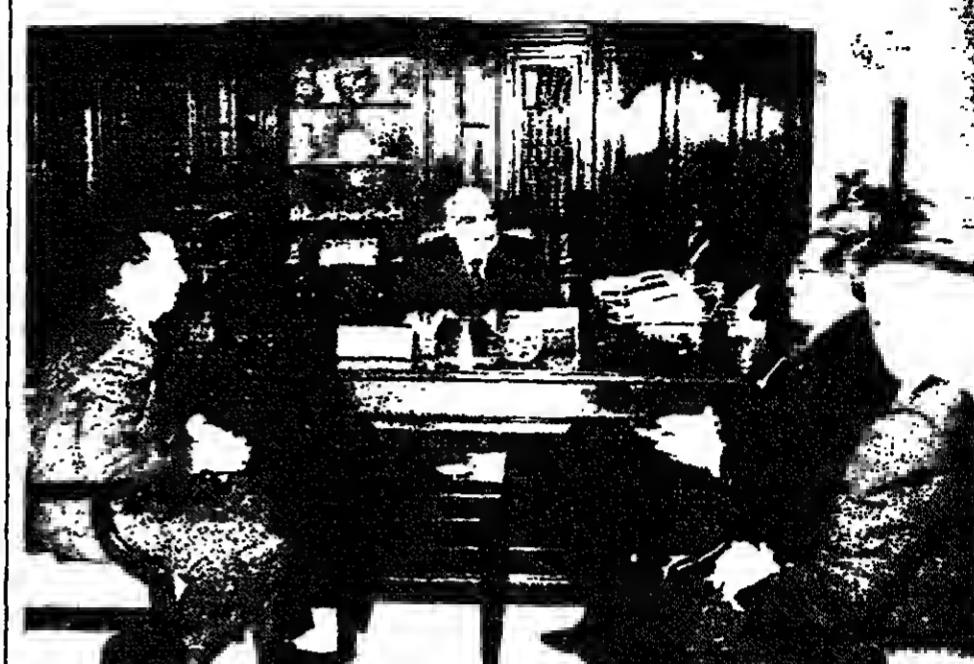
The 20-second seismic wave rippled through expressways and railway tracks as if they were twigs, hurled

around 60,000 households

were without power, and 490,000 without gas.

Worst hit by far was Kobe, Japan's fifth-largest metropolis, where at nightfall, the centre was transformed into a ghost town as dazed residents wandered in icy temperatures

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday meets with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf. (Petra photo)

## King urges government to implement changes needed and reduce bureaucracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday voiced his full support for the new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and its efforts to meet the challenges facing the country at present.

The King urged the government to cut down on bureaucracy, "which hampers the administrative and economic development."

"We want Jordan to serve as a model and an example for our Arab brothers in terms of its pan-Arab affiliation, democratic life and political pluralism, and to reflect what the Jordanian people enjoy of responsible freedoms," the King said.

He said Jordan needs to consolidate its efforts towards helping the country and the future generations to attain the aspirated goals.

The present stage requires increasing efforts towards reform so that the various institutions can continue to shoulder their responsibilities with efficiency and distinguished performance," the King said.

"The government should review what has been

achieved and carry out the required changes and reform so that the country's institutions will be able to deal with the requirements of the present stage," the King said.

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The King was reassured about a number of matters of concern to the citizens, including preparations for the Holy Month of Ramadan and measures to meet the public's requirements during the month, Sharif Zeid said.

The King was also reassured about measures taken by the government for the restoration of the country's water rights in implementation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the government's action in dealing with poverty and unemployment.

In organising the employment of guest workers and in adopting measures to curtail road accidents.

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem attended the meeting.

## Jordan fully backs Ifran resolution

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Tuesday voiced satisfaction with the outcome of a two-day meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in the Moroccan city of Ifran and said the Kingdom fully supported the final resolution adopted by the meeting and would work towards implementing its recommendations.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who represented Jordan at the ministerial level meeting held between the chairmanship of Morocco's King Hassan II, also emphasised that Jordan supported all efforts to save Jerusalem, protect Palesti-

nian rights there, back the steadfastness of the city's Palestinian residents and preserve the cultural and religious heritage of the Holy City.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti also said Jordan fully supported the final resolution adopted by the meeting and would work towards implementing its recommendations.

The resolution also called on the secretary-general of the OIC to contact international organisations with a view to safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Holy City, the agency said.

"Concrete proposals were made to save Al Ouds and there was no divergence among any of the members," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told Reuters after

the committee's first session in Ifran on Monday.

The final resolution was also expected to condemn Israel's decision to ban Palestinian activity in Arab East Jerusalem, Reuter said. Petra made no mention of this issue.

The resolution was also to ask Moscow and Washington, sponsors of the Middle East peace conference, to intervene to stop the Judaisation of Jerusalem, according to Reuters.

Mr. Kabariti said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had confirmed to him that he would visit Jordan this

(Continued on page 7)

## Yemen softens its stand in Saudi row

PARIS (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh hinted Tuesday he was ready to renew a border agreement which gives Saudi Arabia three disputed provinces, after several armed clashes between the two neighbours.

"We accept that the settlement of the border issue should be based on the Taif accord" of 1994, Mr. Saleh said at a press conference at the end of an official visit to Paris.

The treaty assigned the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir to the Saudi kingdom. They are also claimed by Yemen.

Previously Sanaa argued that the treaty expired in September 1992 and was opposed to renewing it. Two years of talks have failed to make any headway.

The dispute, which has provoked several armed clashes since early December, escalated into a tense stand-off between Yemen and Saudi forces at the

weekend after both sides were reported to have massed troops along the border.

The tension was defused by a Syrian-brokered agreement Sunday, when the two sides pledged to avoid the use of force between them.

"We do not want war, even if we are the victim of aggression," Mr. Saleh said.

Where the boundary is ill-defined between the two countries — along the border of former South Yemen which merged with the north four years ago — a special commission will be created to demarcate it, the president said.

If there is disagreement there should be arbitration, and if there is deadlock we should take the matter to the International Court of Justice" in the Hague, Mr. Saleh added.

However, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Ansari said that "historical, religious and geographical ties

between the two countries are very strong and cannot be broken," he said.

Mr. Imayev, a close aide of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, said the issue of prisoner exchanges would be

discussed later. He added that Ingush President Ruslan Aushev had acted as go-between in brokering the ceasefire accord.

But Mr. Imayev could not give any firm official timing for the ceasefire, or announce any official signing.

Meanwhile, correspondents at the Chechen capital of Grozny said Russian bombardments of Chechen positions in the city were continuing.

He said the ceasefire could start as early as Wednesday night.

A government spokesman confirmed the accord, which came during an hour-long meeting between Mr. Chernomyrdin and Vice Premier Sergei Shakhray on one hand and Mr. Imayev and Chechen Economics Minister Timurzai Abubakarov on the other.

Mr. Shakhray had briefed Mr. Chernomyrdin on his exploratory talks Monday with Mr. Imayev and Mr. Abubakarov.

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# Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

## Battle looming for Mogadishu

**MOGAIDSHU (AFP)** — A battle for Mogadishu airport is looming as U.N. troops depart.

Rival chieftains told AFP separately here that their militia would control it and defend it.

The 8,000 U.N. troops remaining, garrisoned at the airport, the port, and in the city, will all leave Somalia by late March following the failure of rival warlords to agree on a government of national unity for this lawless Horn of Africa nation.

The dozen or so relief agencies remaining in Somalia are planning to withdraw their expatriates — mostly to Nairobi — until the situation settles.

The departure of the U.N. troops will be protected by an amphibious fleet from the United States, France, Britain, Italy, Pakistan and Malaysia. U.N. Special Representative Victor Ghebo of Ghana told AFP.

U.S. marines will come ashore in the final stages as the last soldiers leave, he said.

After that, with no government in place, the port and the airport, with their lucrative fees, will be up for grabs by rival militias, with the victors able to import ammunition, weapons and other supplies.

Both are in south Mogadishu, which is mostly controlled by General Mohammad Farah Aideed, but the Abgal sub-clan of self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, who controls north Mogadishu, holds the strategic enclave of Medina just beside the airport.

The Abgal, a sub-clan of the Hawiye, chased the Murusade, another Hawiye sub-clan, out of Medina late last year after Murusade leader Mohammad Qanyare Afrah switched allegiance from Mr. Ali Mahdi to Gen. Aideed.

The victorious Abgal commander in Medina, Musa Sudi Yalaho, told AFP in his battered enclave: "It is my responsibility to run the airport. We consider it our property, so we shall defend it if Aideed's men try to loot it. The airport will be fully controlled by us because of its proximity to Medina."

Mr. Qanyare Afrah, who chaired a "peace confer-

ence" of 13 factions in south Mogadishu to plan a government under Gen. Aideed, told AFP that "we are preparing forces to defend" the port and airport.

Various proposals are circulating in Mogadishu for joint north-south committees to run the two facilities, but Mr. Qanyare Afrah said flatly: "Ali Mahdi will not participate. If he wants war he will get it."

Both Mr. Yalaho and Mr. Qanyare Afrah said they would respect the 33-hectare U.S. embassy compound in south Mogadishu, which the United Nations has just evacuated, but both said they would fight for it if the other side occupied it.

The compound is defended at the moment by 950-strong security battalion of Pakistani troops, but they will abandon it after contractors finish removing U.N. equipment, a process expected to take about a month.

It will then be handed back to the U.S. government.

Battles for the port appear less likely, as it is in an area occupied by militias whose leaders have all allegiance to Gen. Aideed.

Mr. Yalaho conceded that "I can't say the port is ours."

Gen. Abo Samah Ben Abo Bakar, the Malaysian commander of the U.N. forces, said he expected there might be some demonstrations as the last U.N. troops left, and maybe some throwing of stones, but added: "I don't expect much trouble."

The protection force — two French warships are already here — will send up helicopter gunships as the U.N. troops depart, with fire-power far superior to the battered pick-up battle-wagons known as "technicals" which circulate in Mogadishu armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns.

The militias also use mortars, recoilless rifles, and 14.5mm cannon, but have no tanks, aircraft, or ships.

Gen. Abo said he was satisfied with security at the dusty airport, which is now home to the remaining U.N. civilians, but that it was being reviewed.



## King meets aid foundation official

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court on Tuesday with Joseph Locke, vice-president of the International Ambassador Foundation based in Pasadena, California.

The foundation has been providing assistance to Jordan since 1982 in the form of expertise and technical aid to rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's deep appreciation to Mr. Locke and his foundation for the assistance to the Kingdom, and listened to Mr. Locke's briefing on the activities of the foundation which was established in 1975.

Mr. Locke told the Jordan Times later that since 1982 the foundation has given special attention to Jordan where he paid tribute to Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath for spearheading efforts in

caring for handicapped children.

The foundation has 23 of its trained volunteers working for Jordanian centres that help the handicapped. Mr. Locke added:

"The foundation, he said,

provides similar assistance to centres in Sri Lanka and Thailand but with a smaller number of volunteers.

## Poland smuggled U.S. agents in Iraq

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — Six U.S. agents who were trapped inside Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, were rescued and smuggled out to Turkey with the help of Polish intelligence, the Washington Post newspaper said Tuesday.

The operation, headed by a Polish agent who had spied against the United States during the cold war, prompted Washington to help Warsaw slash its \$33 billion foreign debt by half, unidentified Polish and U.S. officials told the daily.

Washington turned to Poland for help in rescuing its agents because of extensive construction work carried out in Iraq by Polish engineering firms, the officials said.

A similar request was rebuffed by Britain and France, who were concerned about their own nationals who had been taken as "human shields" against foreign attacks by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the officials added.

The U.S. agents, from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Defence Intelligence Agency according to American officials, were in Iraq to monitor Iraqi troop movements near the border with Kuwait.

After a series of false starts, the U.S. agents, none of whom spoke Polish, were piled into a convoy of cars for their drive to the Turkish border.

North of Mosul, they were stopped by an Iraqi military officer who was quickly moved away from the cars by a Polish technician who complimented him on his fluent Polish and talked about the friendship between their two countries.

Given the passports to be

checked, the Iraqi officer brushed them aside saying: "No problem. You are friends, you can go."

Fearing border guards would ask the Americans their assumed Slavic names, which they were unable to pronounce, the Polish agents tried to get their friends drunk on whiskey with no luck, the officials said.

Nevertheless, the U.S. agents managed to cross the border safely on foot, the officials added.

No precise date for the rescue operation was given, other than it took place in the fall of 1990.

"It was high-risk," then CIA director William Webster told the daily, adding that the Poles "deserve a lot of credit."

"It was a good beginning for our relationship in the future," said Mr. Webster, whom the daily said travelled to Poland early November 1990 with a letter from then President George Bush announcing his intention to press other governments to forgive \$16.5 billion of Poland's foreign debt.

After the rescue operations, the daily said, Polish agents went on to free 15 other foreigners, most of them Britons, who had been taken hostage by Iraq.

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Given the passports to be

## No letup in South Lebanon war of attrition

**By Hala Boncompagni**  
Agence France Presse

**BEIRUT** — Israel's war of attrition against Arab guerrillas in South Lebanon has shown no sign of slackening despite progress on other tracks of the peace process.

The two sides have vowed to destroy each other and clashes erupt almost daily.

The guerrillas launched some 25 attacks against Israeli troops and their proxy, South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in South Lebanon in the first half of January.

The violence, which has rocked South Lebanon since Israel invaded the country and first deployed there nearly 20 years ago, has reached a new peak while Lebanese-Israeli peace talks remain deadlocked pending progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Hizbollah vows to press on with its crusade and liberate South Lebanon from Israeli occupation while its arch enemy says peace deeds on disarming the guerrillas.

Buoyed by fresh statements of support from Teheran and Damascus, which deploys 35,000 troops in Lebanon, Hizbollah launched daring attacks Monday and Tuesday on Israeli and SLA forces in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The guerrillas even carried out operations from the southern sector of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley — a front which had remained dormant for several months.

Israel struck back with air raids and a barrage of shelling on villages north of the border strip, wounding five civilians since the start of the year and damaging more than 50 homes.

He warned Hizbollah of punitive action if it con-

firmed attacks on the "security zone."

However, Hizbollah's political officer for South Lebanon Haj Hassao Hoballah told AFP the guerrillas were "determined to fight until the total liberation of Lebanon territory and defeat of the enemy and its agents."

Hizbollah has repeatedly vowed to crush the SLA over the past few months and focused most of its attacks on positions manned by the militia in the 850-square-kilometre (340-square-mile) zone.

The Hizbollah-backed movement was encouraged by statements from Lebanese Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul, who pledged SLA militiamen would be tried for treason if Israel pulled out of the zone.

Lebanese police say in a bid to counter Hizbollah's improved tactics, Israel has resorted to its own style of guerrilla warfare, sending patrols north of the zone despite having dropped such methods in 1995.

"Contacts have been going on for some time on the SLA's fate. We have

firmliy replied that they are agents and won't escape justice," he said.

Mr. Dalloul said that Lebanese army soldiers who had joined the SLA, including Gen. Lahd, had been struck off army lists.

Despite the launch of the Middle East peace process in October 1991, fighting has continued unabated in South Lebanon, where 19 Israeli soldiers and 34 SLA militiamen were killed in 1994.

Faced with an upsurge of guerrilla attacks in December, Israeli generals warned they would go on the offensive.

Lebanese police say in a bid to counter Hizbollah's improved tactics, Israel has resorted to its own style of guerrilla warfare, sending patrols north of the zone despite having dropped such methods in 1995.

He joined the "Golden Tunes" troupe and took part in traditional concerts at Cairo theatres.

Mahmoud's contemporaries in Egyptian cinema included Shadia, Nagla Salam, Sharafet Maher and Laila Fawzi.

Given the passports to be

## PRAYER TIMES

05:10 ... Fajr  
06:17 ... [Sunrise] Duhr  
11:45 ... Asr  
16:59 ... Maghrib  
18:28 ... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Switzerland, Tel. 810740  
Churches of God Church, Tel.  
657255.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
657440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Assumption Tel.  
623541.

Rain is expected in all the regions particularly in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be cloudy, partly cloudy with winds westerly moderate in Aqaba skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and sea calm.

Min/Max. Temp.  
Amman ..... 1/7  
Aqaba ..... 6/16  
Desert ..... 2/7  
Jordan Valley ..... 7/13

Electric Power Company ..... 815615  
Water Authority ..... 801010  
Jordan Electricity Authority

Dr. Ali Al Shoaibi ..... 246140  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... 1—1  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Rajah Saqr ..... 901290  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

IBRD:  
Food Control Centre ..... 657111  
Civil Defense Department ..... 657111  
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# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995 3

## BRIEF

### Israeli citizenship

PP — About 3,000 Israeli citizens have applied for and been accepted into Jordanian membership since 1993 and 1994. About 1,000 of these have been granted Jordanian citizenship. Some five years ago, there were no Jews in Jordan. Now, there are about 10,000.

### on death of Somali

Canadian Army Captain Michael Smith, a Somalian soldier, was killed in a suicide bombing at the US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. He was buried in a military cemetery in Canada.

He was born in 1962 and died in 1994. He was a member of the Canadian Forces and had served in Somalia.

### at Al Azhar Mosque

Monday on the occasion of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, a group of people gathered at Al Azhar Mosque in Amman to pay their respects.

### sign ministry chief

Al-Azhar Mosque

again in Egypt

again in Egypt

### JAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

again in Egypt

### LAKET PRICES

again in Egypt

## Seminar to familiarise media with IMF activities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Journalists and columnists as well as representatives of the electronic media from Jordan and other Arab countries are expected to get first-hand information and assessments of the activities and programmes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in various countries in the region during a symposium to be held in Amman next week.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to open on Jan. 21-22 event organised by the Amman-based Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies, an affiliate of the 22-member Arab League.

The event is being held at a time when government officials and economists say many journalists covering economic and financial issues lack the proper background to do a justifiable job. Journalists counter the criticism by pointing out that they have little or no access to specialised forums where issues are discussed for the common man.

ported by revealing data. They also complain that many aspects of IMF programmes in the Arab World are kept as tightly-guarded secrets if only because detailed revelations of IMF-prescribed plans might preempt many measures that are expected to be implemented by the governments.

In the case of Jordan, officials have often admitted that criticism levelled at the fiscal restructuring programme under way in the Kingdom appeared to stem from ambiguous understanding of the programme.

The seminar, part of the efforts of the Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies to highlight "the role of the media in handling economic and financial issues," will involve working papers as well as panel discussions, said Khalil Al Shamma, deputy chief of the institute.

The event is the first of its kind to be organised by the institute and will be held under the title "The International Monetary Fund and the Arab World — Realities and Prospects."

Dr. Shamma expressed hope that media representatives attending the

seminar would benefit from the first-hand information tabled and discussed there in that they would be able to acquire details of various IMF programmes in countries with differing economic features.

The IMF representatives will be discussing the fund's activities and future programmes in the different Arab countries and government officials will present their own views on the IMF programmes, Dr. Shamma said.

Journalists from all sorts of media are being invited to the event, Dr. Shamma said, expressing hope that the outcome of the seminar would be enlightening the media on the realities of economic restructuring programmes and other IMF activities in the Arab World.

The Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies was established in 1988. It maintains close ties with other Arab League and regional organisations as well as with international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank.

## King receives visiting minister; Jordanian-Yemeni ties discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the visiting Yemeni minister of administrative reform, Sadeq Abu Ras, and reviewed with him Yemeni-Jordanian relations.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Administrative Development Mohieddin Toq, the Yemeni minister stressed his country's need for Jordanian expertise in civil service and public administration. King Hussein promised all help concerning this domain.

The Yemeni minister earlier visited the University of Jordan and met with its president, Fawzi Gharaibeh, with whom he discussed prospects of cooperation in training Yemeni personnel in public administration affairs.

Dr. Gharaibeh briefed the minister and his accompanying delegation on the different courses which could benefit Yemeni officials specialising in public administration.

Mr. Abu Ras's Under-



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Yemeni Minister of Administrative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

The department said that the transaction was agreed upon during a recent visit to Yemen by a department delegation which met with the Yemeni business community.

The statement said that agreement was also reached on exporting \$261,000 worth of gas cookers to Yemen by the end of January.

## 67 tawjiji students have exams cancelled for cheating



Students taking the tawjiji examinations (File photo)

was given to the students to answer them. In the industrial stream, the ministry found that most of the students in the scientific stream had complained about the insufficient time given them to

accordingly.

Reports in the local press said that most of the students in the scientific stream had complained about the insufficient time given them to

answer the physics questions, but the ministry stresses that there were no other problems except for the industrial stream's question.

According to Dr. Obeidat,

84,361 students sat for the examinations in Jordan. Their papers are being scrutinised in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Karak and Maan centres.

11,000 teachers were enlisted to supervise the examinations in 1,130 halls around the country and 5,500 teachers are currently involved in the process of assessing the students' performances, said Dr. Obeidat.

Referring to the questions given to the students, Dr. Obeidat said they were set in accordance with this year's syllabus and sufficient time

## Panel seeks to educate society on congenital diseases, disabilities

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Introducing educational programmes concerning disabilities and congenital diseases through the media and proposing their implementation in schools, colleges and higher education institutes was a top priority of the committee formed by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) to follow up on the recommendations suggested after the conclusion of a two-day conference last week on disabilities and congenital diseases.

She told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the BPWC will organise several meetings and interviews with specialised people and will distribute pamphlets in rural areas and small towns "where most inter-marriages occur."

"We are going to request from the concerned authorities that they provide the necessary equipment to test women during and after pregnancy," she added.

The committee recommended focusing on educating women on the importance of proper health care during and after pregnancy.

The experts also suggested designating a day for hereditary diseases and inviting biology and health education professors to lecture and discuss the latest discoveries in their fields.

In addition, the committee suggested establishing a national library in Arabic to provide help and services to mothers and the society in general regarding disabilities and congenital diseases, and to follow up on the latest developments.

The committee includes Mohammad Khatib, a biology professor, Abdul Karim

Al Qudah, a professor of paediatric medicine, and Halah Khamei, a biology professor, all three from the University of Jordan; Hatem Shanti, professor of genetics at the Jordan University of Science and Technology; Sana Saqf Al Heit, expert in diagnosis of hereditary diseases, and Muna Hamzeh, director of health education, both of the Ministry of Health; Stima Bahous, information and communication officer at the UNICEF Children's Fund (UNICEF); Haifa Ghazal, of the Psychological Guidance Society; and Hind Abdul Jaber and Butheinah Jardaneh of the BPWC.

Organised by BPWC and UNICEF, and attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the two-day conference aimed at public awareness of congenital diseases and prevention methods through educational programmes offered by the BPWC throughout the Kingdom.

The conference, attended by representatives of various ministries and private and public institutes, discussed five papers including cancer and heredity, early diagnosis of congenital disease before birth, religious opinion regarding congenital disease and abortion, the handicapped and criminal behaviour, and the role of the diagnosis centre at the Ministry of Health of preventing handicapped.

"We realise that there has been a big debate about this

## 40,000 more trees to take root in Al Hussein National Park

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality today will launch the second and third phases of Al Hussein National Park east of Amman by planting 40,000 trees during celebrations marking Arbor Day.

A municipality announcement said that 23,000 trees will be planted on 350 dunums in the Khalilat area along the ring road east of Amman, and 17,000 trees on 242 dunums in the Raqqim district, also east of Amman.

The two projects mark the second and third stages in the greening of areas east of the capital after phase I was executed in January last year.

The first phase was launched by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath during an Arbor Day ceremony in which 120,000 trees were planted on 1,248 dunums in the district.

The municipality said the projects east of Amman were part of a drive to fight off desertification and green the country.

The statement said that the municipality has enclosed the first phase of the project with a 6,000-metre-long barbed wire fence and uses drip irrigation to water the trees from a local artesian well which feeds eight large water towers.

Meanwhile, Ajloun governorate announced Tuesday that it will hold its own Arbor Day celebration Wednesday by planting 2,500 seedlings on three dunums of land.

At Kura district, an Arbor Day celebration was held, and according to the director of the local agricultural department, 25,000 trees were distributed to citizens and organisations to be planted in the district.

*Save water... Every drop counts!*

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Film entitled "Live and Let Die" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Novel recital by Dr. Saleh Abu Usba' at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.

- ★ Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarraga at Institute Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.

## ARAB CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION

The exhibition contains paintings, sculptures, prints, watercolours, and ceramics by famous Arab artists.

Location: Mona Saudi Studio  
Abdoun Village - Tel.: 829700

Exhibition runs from Thursday, Jan. 18 - until Saturday Jan. 27.

Daily from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Directions: Take road opposite gate of American Embassy. Road turns to right at end. Take 1st turn left, 2nd house on right between pine trees.

AMMAN (J.T.) — In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which will be held in Istanbul in June 1996, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organising a regional expert group meeting next week, in cooperation with the Arab League and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

Held under the patronage of Minister of Public Works and Housing Dr. Abdel Razzaq Al Nasour, the expert group meeting will take place at Amman's Forte Grand Hotel between Jan. 23 and 26.

The meeting will serve as a forum for Arab experts to exchange information and views on the sustainable development of human settlements, and to discuss the general framework of the Arab Declaration for the Development of Human Settlements. It aims to finalise the draft Arab declaration and to make recommendations, which, following their adoption at the regional Arab level, will be used as an input to the global plan of action.

More specifically, the meeting seeks to achieve the following goals:

— Studying the current state of urbanisation, its future direction and its effect on human settlements.

— Examining the current state of adequate shelter in the Arab region, in terms of its availability and cost in rural and urban areas and on national and regional levels.

— Assessing and reviewing

existing policies and programmes for the sustainable development of human settlements, and providing objective suggestions and recommendations on them.

— Discussing the general framework of the Arab Declaration for Human Settlements prepared by ESCWA in order to finalise it in the form of a draft Arab declaration that would reflect the realities, priorities and basic approach of the sustainable development of human settlements in the Arab region.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Amman Tuesday in preparation for another U.N.-sponsored conference, the World Summit for Social

Development, to be held in Denmark in March this year.

The meeting of the National Jordanian Coordination Committee, was chaired by Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri. It reviewed the Jordanian national working paper which will be submitted to the upcoming conference and which is seen as another sign of increasing concern around the world that the poor are being sidestepped and ignored, with no solution in sight for the mounting problems.

The summit is expected to come up with a plan of action to address social issues.

## Supporters want Aristide forever

**PORTE-AU-PRINCE, HAITI** (AP) — Creole graffiti on the walls and billboards read "Aristide for life." Slogans such as "Aristide for 1,000 years" grace the decayed downtown district.

The nine-member Electoral Council, which is to administer two elections this year, was recently stacked with supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The traditionally anti-Aristide army has been humiliated and reduced to a fourth of its size in favour of a police force that Mr. Aristide's government will oversee.

Some see these developments as pointing to the popular priest staying beyond his term. Others say staying on could be ruinous to Haiti.

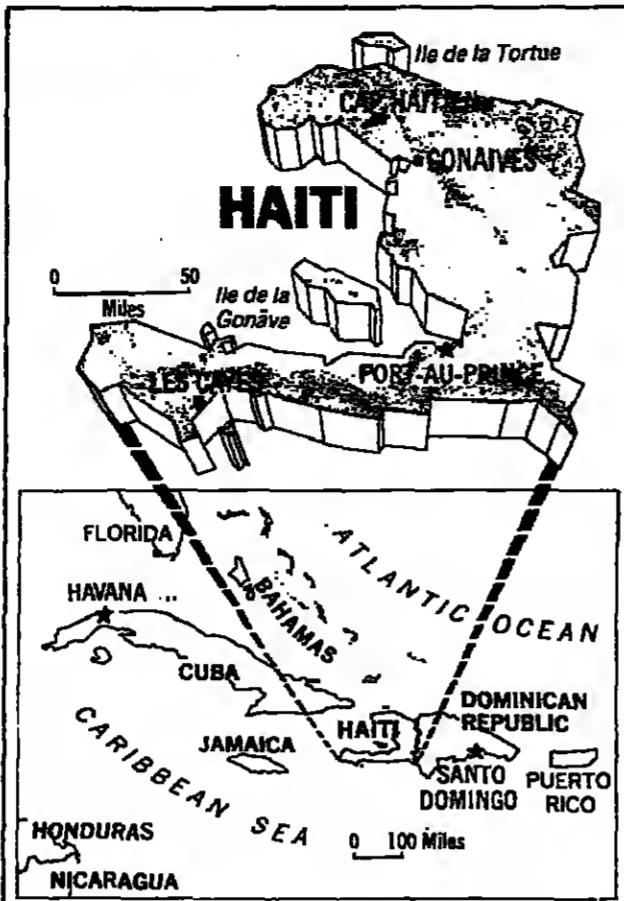
Mr. Aristide denies ambitions beyond his five-year term, which ends in February 1996. Under the constitution, he cannot run again for five years.

He has said the measure of democracy in Haiti was not his election, but the transfer of power to a freely elected successor when his term expires.

"Surely things will improve if Haiti gets through the year with successful elections for a new parliament and Mr. Aristide's successor. It will give the country confidence," said Cohn Granderson, chief of the U.N. civilian mission in Haiti. "Political stability will create a favourable investment climate, and jobs will follow."

However, a nascent grassroots movement has been floating the idea of extending his term, an idea that Mr. Aristide once supported before submitting to American pressure to step aside.

A pro-Aristide newspaper,



exile.

Mr. Aristide is described by some as lacking vision to the long-term development needs of his country, focusing instead on short-term humanitarian needs to the poorest nation in the Americas.

"While humanitarian aid is important, it is cosmetic," said Raymond Lafontant, director of the Haitian Association of Industries, which was generally sympathetic to Mr. Aristide during his exile.

The troops will not be sent until Haitian authorities confirm that the situation is stable," said Mr. Williston.

Canada has sent 13 Royal Canadian Mounted Police to maintain order and 25 others to train Haitian police. An additional 65 will be sent to early March.

stays on, be will find me fighting him."

Meanwhile, Canada will send some 500 troops to Haiti to help rebuild airports and other parts of the Haitian infrastructure, officials said Monday.

The Canadian army and air force will send engineers and technical personnel, according to John Williston, a spokesman for Defence Minister David Collenette.

The troops will not be sent until Haitian authorities confirm that the situation is stable," said Mr. Williston.

Canada has sent 13 Royal Canadian Mounted Police to maintain order and 25 others to train Haitian police. An additional 65 will be sent to early March.

## U.S. AID chief hits back at critics

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The head of the U.S. foreign aid agency bit back Tuesday at conservatives in Congress who want to abolish it, saying that if they did so the government would only have to re-create it later.

Agency for International Development (AID) administrator Brian Atwood said such a move would damage U.S. leadership. He accused the critics of advocating amoral conduct abroad while preaching traditional moral values at home.

"My worry is that the debate we are having over the fate of our agency could damage our leadership potential as much as the budget reductions we have already suffered," Mr. Atwood said.

"The problem is not the informed critics who honestly believe there is a better way to achieve our goals. The problem is created by those who want to win the day by tearing down our institution."

Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell has introduced a bill to cut foreign spending and scrap AID, while the administration itself is considering proposals to incorporate AID and two other independent agencies into the State Department.

Mr. Atwood said the United States was at a "crucial juncture," with world population growth likely to increase the challenge over the next 30 years and disease, food shortages and poverty causing more migration and

instability. "Now more than ever we need a strong institution capable of addressing these threats," he said. "If some on the bill (in Congress) have their way and we lose that capability now, make no mistake, we will have to reinvent it later."

"It is remarkable that some who advocate a return to traditional standards in America can simultaneously argue for moral indifference in international conduct."

U.S. overseas aid in 1993 totalled about \$9 billion. In absolute terms it was second only to Japan, but as a percentage of gross national product it was the lowest among major Western nations, AID officials say.

"The problem is not the informed critics who honestly believe there is a better way to achieve our goals. The problem is created by those who want to win the day by tearing down our institution."

Mr. Atwood mentioned no names but twice referred to a remark by arch-conservative Senator Jesse Helms about "throwing money down foreign ratholes" as an example of "demagogery." Sen. Helms, a North Carolina Republican, is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Atwood, who was appointed in 1993 to clean up AID after allegations of inefficiency and corruption, also contested recent charges by the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank that it was still squandering money.

He accused the group of making selective quotes from recent reprints by AID's own inspector general, and said the failings identified by the inspector had been corrected.

"Those who think that we can lay down the burden of leadership should understand that our retreat will resonate throughout the international

## Danish prince's trip with model sparks speculation

**COPENHAGEN (R)** — Denmark's heir to the throne Prince Frederik returned from a tropical island holiday with a lingerie model amid speculation about his marital future. In a TV interview, Prince Frederik did not mention his girlfriend but listed qualities Denmark's next queen should possess. "She must be at ease with herself and something of an individual. She will have to be an independent woman, not a doll. It's no easy job," the prince said. Prince Frederik's girlfriend, Danish model Karaja Stokholm, accompanied him to the island of Mauritius this month fueling speculation she might become Denmark's next queen.

## Crane used to winch 500-pound ailing woman

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP)** — Firefighters had to use a crane to lift a 230-kilogramme (506-pound) woman out of a third-floor window and take her to hospital.

Fire Department officials said the woman, who was not identified, had made an emergency call to her doctor Sunday evening but the latter was unable to carry her to a waiting ambulance even with the help of several men. The physician then called the fire department which sent a crane to help transport the ailing woman to hospital.

## Boys find loot of 20-year-old robbery

**LONDON (AFP)** — Three boys playing on the bank of a canal in northwestern England came across the loot of a burglary committed some 20 years ago and worth £50,000 (\$75,000), police said Tuesday. Damian Eccles, 11; his brother Daniel, 13; and David Jones, 16, were digging a foxhole beside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Halsall, when they came across a metal box. "We opened it up and when we saw all the silver and jewels inside we thought we were rich. We went to a house nearby and phoned the police from there," Daniel Eccles said.

In San Francisco, an early morning shower made Sunday the 16th straight day of rain, breaking a 60-year record for consecutive rain days.

President Bill Clinton found himself offering U.S. aid to Japan after Monday's major earthquake as he prepared Tuesday to survey the recovery from last year's devastating California quake.

The president was also to inspect damage from this year's storm-driven floods.

The United States said Monday U.S. embassy officials in Japan were checking on the whereabouts of as many as 20,000 Americans.

## Clinton marks Martin Luther King holiday

**DENVER, Colorado (AFP)** — President Bill Clinton and other Americans honoured Martin Luther King Monday amid a dispute between the King family and authorities over how to preserve the slain U.S. civil rights leader's legacy.

"What he lived and died for was for everyone of you to have the right to do good and be good and make the most of your life," Mr. Clinton said in an address at a commemorative ceremony for Rev. King held here.

Mr. Clinton linked the famed dream speech of Rev. King, who would have been 66 years old Monday, to his own efforts to improve the lives of average Americans and bring the American dream within their reach.

Mr. Clinton was here to take office in 1992. Washington did not have the key to reclaim that dream for which

Martin Luther King gave his life, referring to the civil rights leader's "I have a dream" speech.

But the president added that his two years in office had "restored a sense of economic direction and opportunity."

The president's trip, which includes a visit to flood-damaged California, is aimed at promoting his Middle Class Bill of Rights package of tax breaks for families with children and students.

Meanwhile, Rev. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and their children placed a wreath on Rev. King's crypt in Atlanta, Georgia, early Monday, then attended a packed Ebenezer Baptist Church where both Rev. King and his father had preached.

Former Atlanta Mayor and King aide Andrew Young, wept as he reminded the

crowd that Rev. King's dream of a country united in racial harmony has not yet been achieved.

"Martin knew that this wasn't a one-generational struggle," he said. "He knew he would not make it to the end, so it was very important that he have a family that could carry on."

The pastor, Reverend Joseph Roberts, reminded the congregation of Rev. King's patience in his peaceful pursuit of racial harmony.

"As we see what is going on in Haiti and in South Africa, we know he rejoices with us," he said.

The dispute between the family and the National Park Service centres on control of an Atlanta, Georgia, neighbourhood where Rev. King was born on Jan. 5, 1929 that has been designated a national historic site.

## Thieves ham it up in France

**DIJON, France (AFP)** — Thieves stole 840 kilos (1,850 pounds) of ham from a warehouse over the weekend, police said. They broke into the refrigerated facility overnight and made off with 660 boxes of jellied ham with panache, a specialty from the Dijon region of eastern France, the police said.

## Marcos son interviewed, kissed by Aquino's daughter

**MANILA (AP)** — The son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos laughed, talked and exchanged kisses on live TV Monday with a daughter of the opposition leader Marcos is suspected of having killed. Kris Aquino, a daughter of slain politician Benigno Aquino and host of a talk show on the government-controlled RPN-9 station, interviewed Ferdinand Marcos Jr., 36. Her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, has accused the elder Marcos of masterminding her husband's killing. The next generation was more conciliatory. "In fairness, everybody I see Bongbong, he is so articulate, he does not look like he could kill another person," the 23-year-old Ms. Aquino said. In 1983, Ms. Aquino's father was assassinated by a soldier as he returned from exile in the United States. Three years later, an uprising drove the Marcoses into exile in Hawaii and installed Corazon Aquino as president. Mr. Marcos died in Honolulu three years later.

## Greek MPs shelve Mitsotakis' indictments

**ATHENS (AP)** — The Socialist-dominated parliament voted Monday to suspend the indictments of conservative former Premier Constantine Mitsotakis and two of his former ministers whom it accused of corruption.

Last year, the Socialist government pushed indictments through parliament accusing Mr. Mitsotakis of taking a bribe in a cement company's sale and of authorising wiretaps during his 1990-1993 government.

It also charged former Finance Minister Yannis Paleokrassas and former Industry Minister Andreas Andrianopoulos with alleged illegalities in the privatisation of the Aget-Heracles cement concern in 1992. All three have denied the charges.

In a secret ballot after a daylong debate, deputies voted 154-102 in favour of suspending Mr. Mitsotakis' indictment on the wiretapping charge. They voted 155-98 to suspend legal action against the former premier and his two ministers in connection with the cement company's sale.

There are 300 seats in the single-chamber parliament. But of the 274 deputies present, 18 abstained in the first vote and 21 in the second. The ruling Socialist Party (PASOK) has 170 seats and the conservative New Democracy Party has 109. Two smaller parties walked out before the vote.

## Simpson trial set to begin

**LOS ANGELES (APF)** — Accused murderer and football great O.J. Simpson faces this week the most highly publicised trial in U.S. history, pumped by high-powered attorneys pitching in incendiary elements of racism and wife abuse.

O.J. Simpson, 47, who is black, is accused of slashing to death his ex-wife Nicole, 35, and her friend, Ron Goldman, 25, both of whom are white. This capped, prosecutors say, years of violent abuse of his wife.

Defence attorneys argued that marital turmoil is irrelevant and instead insisted that a racist detective framed Mr. Simpson by placing a key piece of evidence — a bloody glove matching one at the crime scene — on his wife.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito will rule Tuesday or Wednesday whether to allow the 12-person jury made up of eight blacks, one Hispanic and two whites to hear the evidence of wife abuse.

Opening arguments in the trial begin Thursday, a few days after reports surfaced that two of his most prominent defence lawyers —

## Singapore fines newspaper for contempt

**SINGAPORE (R)** — A Singapore court imposed heavy fines on an American professor and officials of the International Herald Tribune (IHT) newspaper Tuesday after finding them guilty of contempt in a published article.

On Sept. 15, the Socialist majority indicted Mr. Mitsotakis on June 16, claiming that he authorised the wiretaps of political opponents while in power. The trial before a special High Court and Appeals Court judges was to start on Jan. 23 if the indictment had not been suspended.

On Sept. 15, the Socialist majority indicted Mr. Mitsotakis on charges of taking a bribe of \$22 million in the privatisation of the Aget-Heracles Cement Company.

Premier Andreas Papandreou, 75, said in his speech that he wanted the country to put the past behind it for the sake of national unity.

Several members of his party had said that they would not support his proposal: Some because they would have liked to see Mr. Papandreou in court while others objected to having to indict the former premier at Mr. Papandreou's bidding in the first place.

Technically, the charges will not be dropped and a new parliament could decide to try Mr. Mitsotakis and the other two men before a special high court but this is considered unlikely.

Mr. Mitsotakis resigned from the leadership of the New Democracy Party after his government fell to the Socialists in 1993.

The Socialists pushed through parliament an indictment

whether a key white police investigator, Mark Fuhrman, has a history of racial intolerance.

Mr. Shapiro learned that Mr. Bailey had for weeks been leaking to the media items intended to diminish Mr. Shapiro's legal skills while enhancing his own, the New York Times reported Monday.

The feud between the out-sized legal egos has only added to the Hollywood frenzy surrounding this trial in which Mr. Simpson co-wrote a book in jail proclaiming his innocence while Judge Ito starred in a television interview.

And hundreds of reporters and photographers have converged on the courthouse for "the trial of the century" that has created a bonanza for the T-shirt and memorabilia entrepreneurs hawking their O.J. wares outside.

The media muscle brought to this trial promises to imprint on the national consciousness, at least temporarily, the issues of domestic violence and racism.

Race tensions surfaced as defence and prosecution attorneys, both black, sparred over the question of

whether the key white police investigator, Mark Fuhrman, has a history of racial intolerance.

Johnnie Cochran presented statements made by Mr. Fuhrman, evidence from his psychologists and an affidavit from a woman who claimed she heard him make racist remarks.

Mr. Cochran introduced evidence that showed Mr. Fuhrman 14 years ago used the word "nigger," and portrayed Mr. Fuhrman as a man capable of planting evidence because of his alleged racial bias.

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden urged Judge Ito to block the word.

"I'll issue a test, and the test will be: Whose side are you on, the side of the white policemen, or are you on the side of the black defendant and his very prominent and capable black lawyer?" Mr. Darden said.

Judge Ito bristled at the prospect, saying "For those of us who grew up in the '60s and had hoped this would kind of go away, it's a big disappointment to still have to read this stuff."

"It's just a coincidence that

the quakes occurred one after another," he said.

Said Jiro Suzuki, a seismology professor at Tohoku University: "The latest quake was traced to a different cause from earlier tremors, though there may be an indirect link among them."

Tuesday's earthquake left more than 1,200 dead or missing, and thousands injured, in Osaka, Kobe and other parts of western Japan.

The damage was far greater than the Dec. 28 quake in the northern city of Hachinohe which claimed only two lives despite its higher magnitude of 7.5.

They attributed much of the damage to the relative lack of preparedness among people in the Osaka area which — unlike Tokyo and the surrounding region — is not renowned as a major centre of seismic activity.

Megumi Mizoue, a professor of seismology at Tokai University, said the western Japanese plate, where Tuesday's quake occurred, was separate from the northern plate.

Toshi Asada, professor of seismology at Tokai University, said the western Japanese plate, where Tuesday's quake occurred, was separate from the northern plate.

"It's just a coincidence that

the quakes occurred one after another," he said.</

# World News



Chechen volunteers march along a boulevard in Grozny heading for the frontline as Russian troops moved in to the city (AFP photo)

## Outside volunteers swell ranks of Chechen fighters

GROZNY, Russia (R) — An artillery barrage forces Chechen fighters moving on Grozny as bombs and shells.

Boris Yeltsin is using the world's financial credits to exterminate Chechenya," he declared.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent the army into Chechenya on Dec. 11 to crush the breakaway republic's three-year bid for independence.

Volunteers like Igor from other republics in the loose, post-Soviet Russian Federation are still too few to make a difference in the final outcome of the battle for Grozny.

But they have improved the effectiveness of individual units and boosted Chechen morale.

"These guys are real men and good fighters, believe me," said Yahya Dashayev, 37, a former big school teacher who turned street fighter over the past five weeks.

"We have some Kazakhs in our unit and they are giving the Russian soldiers a very hard time. The Kazakhs

know what we are fighting for, they know our history and the way the Russians have treated us. They're free-

dom fighters."

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin branded the Chechens as Nazi collaborators during World War II and shipped the entire nation to Kazakhstan as punishment in 1944.

Most of the deportees returned to their homes 20 years later only to find Chechenya dominated by ethnic Russians who had moved in their absence.

The neighbouring republics of Ingushetia and Dagestan, whose Muslim peoples are ethnically close to the Chechens, are contributing most of the outside volunteers to the Chechen rebellion, including some women who serve as snipers.

But fighters have come from all across the former Soviet Union.

Asked what would happen if he were captured by the Russian army, he laughs.

"They won't catch me. I will go to the mountains and this will turn into a partisan war and we will be fighting a very long time."

A swashbuckling, fair-

AMMAN (AFP) — Angered by what they see as Western complacency towards Moscow, young men of Jordan's large Chechen community are itching to defend their homeland against Russian attack.

"If there is a way I am ready to die in defending Grozny, and that goes for all of us," said student Yazzan Shishani, 18.

"That's what we all want," added cabinet-maker Mohammad Shamseddin Ashab, 35. "What's happening in Chechenya touches the heart of all members of our community."

The leaders of the Association of Friends of Chechenya, which claims to represent 15,000 people of Chechen origin and to have the support of 150,000 others with their roots in the Caucasus, deny separatist republic.

"Our activity consists in

haired ethnic Russian with a wild grin, knee-high black leather boots and bandoliers of ammunition draped around his body, Fyodor has been fighting in the capital for two years.

"Like most people I had served two years in the army, but never seen any fighting," Fyodor said of his prior military experience.

"I came to Grozny because I think what Russia is doing in Chechenya is wrong. It's a question of fairness. The Chechens deserve their freedom."

Smoking a cigarette, right foot propped on the stoop of an apartment block, bright blue stocking cap compromising his camouflage fatigues, Fyodor affects the nonchalance of a veteran as shells land in the neighbourhood around him.

Asked what would happen if he were captured by the Russian army, he laughs.

"They won't catch me. I will go to the mountains and this will turn into a partisan war and we will be fighting a very long time."

"This is a fight against the fascism of the Russian regime.

## Crisis in India's ruling party reaches flashpoint

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A leadership feud in India's ruling Congress (I) Party is nearing a flashpoint after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's public warning to his arch rival, a newspaper reported.

"The explosion of Arjun Singh... appears to be imminent," the usually well-informed Hindustan Times said in a front-page report.

Congress leaders declined to comment on any possible moves by Mr. Rao, but the Times said the decision-making Congress Working Committee (CWC) was likely to meet here in the next three or four days "and take a decision in this regard."

Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil confirmed a meeting of the CWC, of which Arjun Singh is a member, was due, but gave no further details.

Other Congress sources, however, said the crisis in the ruling party was coming to a head, and that Mr. Rao would move against Arjun Singh ahead of crucial legislative elections to six Indian states in February and March.

"Arjun Singh's strategy is to wait for a poor Congress performance in the polls so

that he can launch his final assault against the PM," one source said. "The PM would like to pre-empt that."

The developments followed Mr. Rao's first public warning Monday to his critics in the ruling party who he said had crossed the limits of tolerance and needed to be disciplined.

"Leave it to me," Mr. Rao told members of the Congress youth chapter. "It is my responsibility to maintain discipline in the party and I will fulfil my duty as the party president."

Mr. Rao, under attack within the Congress following its election rout in two key states last month, said he had not responded to the increasing vocal attacks on him so far because he believed in democracy.

"But the limit (of tolerance) has been breached," Mr. Rao thundered, in a rare display of public annoyance with Arjun Singh, his key rival in the Congress who quit the cabinet on Dec. 24.

"The current (dissident) activity in the top level of the organisation will be effectively curbed," he added. "Discipline will not be tolerated anymore."

Congress sources said Arjun Singh's supporters were also preparing for a showdown in the event of his expulsion from the party.

"There is a lot of activity going on," one dissident said. "Let us see what Rao can do." Arjun Singh declined to

comment on Mr. Rao's warning, saying: "He (Rao) has every right to speak..."

Arjun Singh, since resigning from the government, has blamed Mr. Rao for the crisis in the Congress, called for a "human face" to the government's economic reforms and demanded a public apology to India's Muslims for the 1992 razing of a 16th century mosque by Hindu fanatics.

Mr. Rao, Congress sources said, was under increasing pressure from supporters to move fast and decisively against Arjun Singh before the state elections to prevent an escalation of dissidence in the event of a Congress rout.

Political analysts have warned that a prolonged bout of disaffection in the Congress with Mr. Rao or a split in the party would jeopardise the economic reforms begun by the prime minister after taking power in June 1991.

Meanwhile, prohibition came into force in Mr. Rao's home state of Andhra Pradesh Tuesday in response to a prolonged anti-liquor campaign by women's groups.

Andhra Pradesh, a sprawling southern coastal state of 66 million people, is the second Indian state to go dry, after Gujarat on the west coast, birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi.

All liquor shops in Andhra Pradesh, India's third most populous state, downed their shutters at midnight Monday.

## Security scare mars Pope's Papua New Guinea visit

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (R) — A Filipino man armed with a fully loaded 15-round semi-automatic pistol was detained while trying to enter a papal mass in Papua New Guinea Tuesday in the latest security scare to mar Pope John Paul's Asia-Pacific tour.

The 40-year-old man, a local resident, was detained minutes before the Pope entered the outdoor stadium and rode through the crowd. He was standing unprotected on the back of an open truck.

Pope said the man, Perfecto Santos, 40, had been detained for several hours of questioning and released pending further investigation.

"He will be subjected to further questioning and appropriate charges may be laid," Assistant Police Commissioner Philip Taku told reporters.

Talking about an earlier security scare, Mr. Taku said the Philippines embassy had informed authorities 30 mi-

nutes before the Pope arrived Monday that two Iranian men had flown into the country from Manila.

Pope then launched a security alert involving Filipino and Australian authorities but after a nationwide search discovered Tuesday that the two had left the country last week, he said.

Initial police concerns were that they might be connected with an alleged assassination plot reportedly uncovered in Manila last week at the start of Pope's tour 11-day tour.

"As far as the security operation for his holiness there were no major incidents apart from these two incidents reported. I am quite satisfied with the level of security," Mr. Taku said.

Despite the security scares, the large number of police and troops at Tuesday's mass could not stop the crowd mobbing the Pope's open-air truck.

On his second day in Papua New Guinea, the Pope rode

through mud and was welcomed as saviour from drought because his mass coincided with the first rain in the capital in nearly a year.

The ceremony in the small outdoor stadium beatified Peter To Rot, a religion teacher killed by Japanese occupying forces during World War II for refusing to give up his faith.

"Some people are saying this rain is Peter To Rot's miracle," a resident of Port Moresby said.

Tribal people in this South Pacific country, where magic and sorcery are still practised, saw the rain as a Papal gift.

"I'm going to be able to tell people that my God brought this rain as a gift," joked an Irish missionary.

Tribes in the mountainous interior saw their first white man in the 1930s when explorers arrived. Spirit worship and magic rites are widespread and sometimes mix with Christianity.

Human rights groups have

## Jordan's Chechens want to fight

AMMAN (AFP) — Angered by what they see as Western complacency towards Moscow, young men of Jordan's large Chechen community are itching to defend their homeland against Russian attack.

"If there is a way I am ready to die in defending Grozny, and that goes for all of us," said student Yazzan Shishani, 18.

"That's what we all want," added cabinet-maker Mohammad Shamseddin Ashab, 35. "What's happening in Chechenya touches the heart of all members of our community."

"He and his colleagues said they knew nothing of volunteers leaving Jordan for Grozny, as alleged by Moscow, and confirmed by a senior Jordanian official, who denied however that Amman was giving them any assistance."

Reports in Moscow Sunday said Russia had appealed to

Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran,

Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to

prevent "mercenaries" and

others from those countries

going to fight in Chechenya.

"The leaders of the Association of Friends of Chechenya, which claims to represent 15,000 people of Chechen origin and to have the support of 150,000 others with their roots in the Caucasus, deny separatist republic.

"Our activity consists in

making public opinion aware

of the Chechen drama and

organising the collection of

humanitarian aid," said one

of the association's militants,

Adnan Yunes Madhab, 37, a researcher in Caucasian history.

"Officially, Jordan has

appealed for fighting to end

in Chechenya but it considers

the war in the Muslim-populated breakaway republic to be an internal Russian matter.

Chechens in Jordan do not

openly criticise this attitude,

but express stupefaction at

the relative international si-

lence on Chechenya.

"How can one deny a peo-

ple its most basic right, of

self-determination," demand

Mohammad Ashab,

adding, "I defy anyone to

find a single Chechen

opposed to independence."

The Chechens who settled

in Jordan maintain close links

with their homeland, speak-

ing the language at home and

recounting the stories of

Chechen resistance to Russian

tsarist and Communist rule.

"My grandmother was de-

ported with her family to

Siberia during Stalin's rule,

and she often tells us stories

of that time," said Moham-

mad Ashab.

"We tell our children the

sagas of Chechen heroes like

Haji Murad," who fought

Russian imperial troops in

the mid-19th century, said

Adnan Madhab.

Meanwhile the association

is continuing to collect hu-

manitarian aid, stocking che-

sts of medical supplies in its

headquarters while awaiting

for it to be dispatched.

"We have got together

enough to fill a cargo plane,

but administrative complica-

tions are delaying it being

sent off via the Red Cross

and Red Crescent," an asso-

ciation official said.

The Chechens who settled

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## Jordan Times

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## Time to use time

GIVEN THE fact that the next Israeli general elections are less than two years away, the clock appears to be ticking away fast against the attainment of a complete and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. To begin with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's political fortunes do not look too good for the moment. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity seems to be on the rise and so are the prospects for the Likud to win the next elections scheduled for 1996. There is a growing consensus on both sides of the Israeli political landscape that the waves of violence and tension that seem to increase in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and on the Lebanese-Israeli border are doing more damage to the peace process. With every attack and counter-attack between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, the Israeli political pulse seems to harden rather than soften against any meaningful compromise that could set the Israeli-PLO peace negotiations on track again. The posture of Palestinian extremists is unwittingly aiding and abetting the political fortunes of the Israeli extremists, something that bodes well for the Likud but not for the ruling Labour government.

Israeli growing violence against the Palestinians as evidenced by the recent killings of Palestinians is also hardening sentiments on the Palestinian side against making compromises in order to move forward the peace talks between them. The recent disclosures made by the memoirs of PLO negotiator Mahmoud Abbas that Rabin's forces were in cahoots with the PLO, prior to the holding of the 1992 general elections in Israel, on negotiating strategies, would not help much the declining political ratings of the Labour Party. Still Abbas' tell-all-book stands to hurt the Likud as well since the revelations contained in it would corroborate the fast accumulating evidence that the Likud Party was also engaged in secret talks with the PLO prior to the 1992 elections.

Thus the overall picture for peace between Israel and the remaining Arab parties that is yet to culminate in treaties looks grim for the moment in view of the limited period still available before the next Israeli elections. Translated into real terms, the Rabin government has only till November of 1995 to make peace deals with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. After that date, the Labour Party may lose its ability to manoeuvre since it can no longer make so-called unpopular moves especially when the cycle of violence seems to get a stronger grip on events in the occupied Palestinian territories and southern Lebanon.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Tuesday called for a general campaign against smoking. Quoting statistical sources, Mohammad Subeih said that JD 456 million worth of tobacco is consumed in Jordan every year by 1.25 million smokers. Add to this the cost of medical care for diseases resulting from smoking, estimated at JD 228 million and JD 50 million in lost business caused by smoking-related sickness and a similar sum spent on cigars and other tobacco and one will realize that a fortune, that could be spent on the poor and on financing development projects, is being wasted, said the writer. It is strange to see Jordan encouraging smoking through the presence of a special fund for supporting the tobacco industry and it is even strange to see most doctors smoking while their duty is to help protect public health, added the writer. Despite laws that ban smoking in public places, people are allowed to violate the regulations and get away with it and we see the government allowing imported cigarettes to be marketed in the Kingdom, said the writer, who suggested that one day a month should be designated as a no-smoking day to start the practice of ending the habit of smoking and save national wealth.

A WRITER in Sawt Al Shaab urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to mend its laws, which have been in force for the past 15 years with a view to improving pension paid to beneficiaries. Nazih Qousi said that in comparing pension paid to retired government employees, to pension paid to those benefiting from the SSC one can find that the pension of regular government employee, who had served for 20 years, is double that offered to non-government employee who retired after working for the same period. The writer said that this is an injustice done to the SSC beneficiaries who pay monthly premiums to the SSC. The writer urged the SSC director-general to keep his promise, made in a recent statement on television, to examine the prospects for increasing the pension of SSC beneficiaries.

M. KAHIL



## Susser's account of Wasfi Al Tel's life lacks deep reading of political dynamics

**"On Both Banks of the Jordan: A Political Biography of Wasfi Al Tel,"**  
by Asher Susser, pp. 208, Frank Cass, first edition, 1994.

By Lu'ay Al Rimawi

IN THIS biographical book, Asher Susser, an Israeli scholar at Tel Aviv University, seeks to delve deep into Jordanian politics to exhume and demystify the events which surrounded one of its greatest political personalities. Due to Susser's nationality factor, his sources are merely drawn from interviews with contemporaries, general articles and Wasfi Al Tel's own writings, speeches, articles and press conferences. Susser's task is further complicated by the inordinate secrecy which shrouded the decision-making process in that sensitive era and the lack of reliable insider information. Unfortunately, the self-appointed task of unearthing the political dust of Wasfi Al Tel eventually proves to be well beyond the limits of the author, as he leaves many intriguing questions virtually unanswered. (Though the book undoubtedly and commendably serves as a narrative reading of Wasfi Al Tel's life and also as an introductory reading on Jordan's political history during the sixties).

The book is divided into seven chapters, preceded by a general introduction, and a conclusion. In the first three chapters Susser examines Wasfi Al Tel's early years, the beginning of his political career and his service in the Jordanian government. In his discussion of Wasfi Al Tel's early life and his political career, Susser relies heavily on recent works of the Jordanian historian Sulayman Al Musa. Wasfi Al Tel's rise to political pre-eminence is rightly traced to the mid-fifties, when his public criticisms of Jamal Abdul Nasser and simultaneous support of the deeply loathed Baghdad Pact endeared him to the Jordanian establishment. His strong friendship with Premier Hazza' Al Majali paid off dividends and was also instrumental. Wasfi Al Tel served as a diplomat in Bonn and Tebran, Chief of Royal Protocol, director of the General Directorate for Guidance and Information (at a time when Jordan's relationship with the United Arab Republic was deteriorating), and Jordan's ambassador to Baghdad.

In the fourth chapter Susser discusses Wasfi Al Tel's accession to premiership, when in January 1962, a period of "relative tranquility," he formed his first cabinet replacing the outgoing Bahjat Al Talibani (p. 36). His government of young, dynamic and educated people won in February 1962 the unanimous confidence of Parliament. Quite rightly observed,

Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy and in November 1962 free parliamentary elections were held. But, Wasfi Al Tel's popularity did not last for long. Friction between him and some aspirant PLO representatives (notably Ahmad Al Shukari, who was propped up by anti-Jordanian Arab forces) took its toll, especially in light of the vicious war of words between Al Tel and Abdul Nasser following the Jordanian-Saudi support for the royalists in Yemen. According to Susser, because of the two Baathist coups in Syria and Iraq in 1963 and Jordan's desire to improve its standing in a region littered with Arab nationalist regimes, Al Tel tendered his resignation in March 1963.

In the fifth chapter, Susser examines in lucid details Wasfi Al Tel confrontations with the PLO and Abdul Nasser. In February 1965, Wasfi Al Tel was reinstated as a prime minister in an era which had been marked by reconciliation with Egypt. In Susser's view, the likely confrontation with the PLO was the "immediate" reason for Wasfi Al Tel's come-back (p. 72). He also

"Quite rightly observed, Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy."

alludes to alleged reports that the Sandis were "dissatisfied" with Jordan's reconciliation with Egypt (p. 71). Additionally, in order to confront leftist and "pseudo-Marxist" radicalism which was still operating in the Kingdom, Susser claims that "Wasfi Al Tel's return was also marked by official tilting towards Islam" (p. 73). However, given the ominously *modus operandi* of the PLO, the Jordanian establishment was justified in its deep apprehension of the PLO's intentions of subordinating the Palestinian population on Jordanian territory to its will. And predictably, deadlock between the Jordanian government and the PLO was inevitable. Wasfi Al Tel's firmness in the face of Ahmad Al Shukari's demands earned him great notoriety among the PLO supporters. This escalation between Jordan and the PLO lead to rupture in relations in 1966.

Furthermore, deterioration in Jordan's relationship with Syria following an abortive coup, together with seditious broadcasts from Cairo against Amman and the November 1966 Israeli attack on Sumu' (south of Hebron), created a highly tense atmosphere. Fierce accusations against Wasfi Al Tel by domestic and

lamentations afterwards "I had a premonition of what would happen" (p. 123). Following the new regional realities Al Tel's importance waned and in the first few years after the 1967 defeat, Al Tel according to Susser was, for the most part, in the "political wilderness" (p. 130). However, following the September clashes between the Jordanian army and factions of the PLO, Wasfi Al Tel was reinstated in October 1970 in order to maintain law and order. Wasfi Al Tel was at the head of a relentless but unsuccessful campaign against the PLO presence in Jordan which ended in its eviction in July 1971. Sadly, as Susser points out, on 28th of November 1971 and "at the peak of his political career... Wasfi Al Tel was assassinated."

According to Susser, because of his "anti-Egyptian record," Wasfi Al Tel was considered as a *persona non grata* in Egypt. But nevertheless, Wasfi Al Tel went to Egypt to take part in the discussions of the Arab Defence Council "against the advice of His Majesty King Hussein" (p. 169). Susser, however, does not provide any serious evidence to dismiss the complex web of the various controversial stories woven around Al Tel's

assassination.

Susser's conclusion provides a personal reading into the composition of the socio-political system in Jordan and the role of East Banker elites. On many occasions one feels that Susser slips inside his protagonist interpreting their actions and speaking their minds. Moreover, his book does not reveal any major contribution to what is not already publicly known about Wasfi Al Tel's life. He also does not provide deep readings into the domestic political dynamics which were then in operation. For example, Susser adduces the flimsy proof that King Hussein's alleged reticence constituted an "evidence" of His Majesty's "reservations" about Al Tel when he was allegedly castigated on policy issues in a meeting which took place in late September 1971 between King Hussein, Bahjat Al Talibani, Qasim Al Rimawi and Wasfi Al Tel (p. 168). Neither does he provide any solid analysis of the ideological objectives of Al Tel and his position on Trans-Jordanian nationalism. Most importantly, in his conclusion Susser does not discuss Wasfi Al Tel's likely chances of political survival in light of dramatic regional political developments, especially after the withering away of Nasserism, and the collapse of the bipolar international system.

However, more than any other prominent East Banker political leader, Wasfi Al Tel's political fate was inextricably linked with an internecine (but inevitable) struggle with irreidentists and rather very extreme PLO elements. One cannot agree more with Susser's insightful observation that on the whole, Wasfi Al Tel seldom harboured any inherent anti-Palestinian sentiment per se, though probably was dispassionate enough to anticipate the dangers which overcharged Arab radicalism could bring upon Jordan and the Palestinian cause. For, in addition to his unquestionable political acumen, Wasfi Al Tel was also a Jordanian prime minister who had seen for himself (while fighting to liberate Palestine in the late forties) the disastrous consequences which had been wrought by presumptuous Palestinian nationalists. To many East Bankers, Wasfi Al Tel, especially after his dramatic and untimely death, still embodies an ultimate East Banker nationalist. Undoubtedly Wasfi Al Tel's not-too-chauvinistic pride in his East Banker heritage, his forceful character coupled with his courage and pragmatism will always continue to inspire admiration and curiosity.

The writer is a Ph.D candidate at the Law Department, The London School of Economics and Political Science. He contributed this article to the *Jordan Times*.

## U.S. puts relations with S. Asia on new footing

By Pratap Chakravarty

Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry ended a tour of Pakistan and India on Saturday aimed at forging new security relationships as part of an "even-handed" U.S. approach towards the bitter South Asian foes.

The Pentagon chief, during his talks here and in Islamabad, stressed repeatedly that the United States wanted to put its ties with India and Pakistan on a new footing in the post-cold war era.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, a former close ally of India, "old barriers to (Indo-U.S.) cooperation have been replaced by new opportunities," Mr. Perry said, welcoming a "new era in Indo-U.S. security relations."

The thaw in ties between New Delhi and Washington was reflected in the signing by the U.S. Defense Secretary of what he described as an "historic" agreement on expanding Indo-U.S. defense cooperation.

In Islamabad, Mr. Perry sought to repair once-closed ties strained by a dispute over Pakistan's nuclear programme by reviving a forum for bilateral military cooperation that had been dormant for more than four years.

In both capitals, Mr. Perry, the first U.S. defense secretary to visit the region since 1988, took pains to stress that "improved ties with one country need not be at the expense of another."

"Protecting America's interests in this new era means having security policies that are pragmatic, flexible and directed at no one," he said.

Articulating a new U.S. policy emphasis on business rather than superpower rivalry, the Pentagon chief also said that defense cooperation goes "hand in hand with economic partnership."

"There is no cause to be euphoric about the new process of (Indo-U.S.) defense cooperation; nor does it call for cynicism," he wrote in a commentary published in the Indian Express.

"Both sides will have to work sincerely to give partnership a chance and not demand too much of each other too soon."

## For Russian military, journalists are the enemy

By Margaret Shapiro

MOSCOW — Russia's military, fighting its first war under close media scrutiny, has focused on journalists and their equipment in an effort to halt the daily barrage of horrific battlefield images, according to journalists and press advocacy groups here.

In the most recent incident, which provoked suspicions of official sabotage, a satellite dish used by many Western television agencies to send reports from the battle zone was vandalized and made inoperable.

Searing television pictures of fighting and body-strewn streets have made a mockery of Russian claims that the war is nearly over and casualties are low, and have increased public opposition to the military incursion.

The incident, at a press compound in Khasavyurt, a town just across Chechnya's eastern border, is unlikely to halt the coverage. Another satellite is still in operation, protected by armed guards around the clock, journalists said.

"It could've been someone who just didn't realize what they were doing," said an employee with Worldwide Television News, a part owner of the satellite. "But given what's going on here, I don't think anyone thinks that's what really happened."

Since the Russian attack

Washington Post

# Features

## Israel reneged on promised freeze of W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — More than 2,000 housing starts were approved in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank last year despite a government promise to the Americans to stop most building, according to studies released Tuesday.

The total number of homes now under construction in settlements is about 4,000, the contractors' association said Tuesday. According to a housing ministry report leaked to the Israeli media, the government planned to accelerate the pace of building this year.

The building drive, with an emphasis on Jerusalem satellite settlements, appears to be part of a last-minute land grab in the West Bank before Israel and the Palestinians begin negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories next year.

Palestinian leaders and Israeli liberals warned Tuesday that the government could torpedo autonomy negotiations.

On a hilltop outside the West Bank settlement of Psagot, hundreds of Palestinians led by officials from Yasser Arafat's self-rule government protested the construction policy Tuesday and clashed with Israeli troops.

"The claim that Israel stopped or froze settlement construction is not true," said one of the protesters, Palestinian Transportation Minister Abdul Aziz Haj. "If they continue to expand, it will destroy the peace process."

Israeli legislator Dedi Zucker said continued building in the West Bank shamed all faith by Israel.

"If we go on with the construction, it will be proof to the Palestinians and to the world... that we don't really mean it when we say we want to end occupation," said Mr. Zucker of the liberal Meretz party, a junior partner in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Coalition government.

But Mr. Rabin said Tuesday the government never promised a complete settlement freeze, and said at the time some investment in continuing settlements would continue.

He suggested the Americans backed the Israeli position.

"We have understandings with the Americans concerning certain things, which re-

By Jonathan Freedland

WHEN Americans marked Martin Luther King Day on Monday one group in particular remembered the preacher's plea for equal civil rights, and repeated his demand that people be judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the colour of their character." This group was not black Americans, but the nation's hottest new constituency: angry white men.

Declaring that they have had enough of being pushed aside in the name of political correctness (PC) and multiculturalism, America's white males are fighting back.

From the grass roots of California to Congress and the Supreme Court, they are declaring war on the positive discrimination which they say has turned them into victims, denying them opportunity because of their colour and gender. Their aim is nothing less than to roll back two decades of political orthodoxy.

The focus of the movement is, fittingly, California. America's largest state spawned some of PC's greatest excesses, from mandatory bilingualism to the labelling of Shakespeare and Milton as DWEMs, Dead White European Males. Now California is leading the movement to undo it all.

Two San Francisco academics are seeking to place a California Civil Rights Initiative on statewide ballots in 1996 — to coincide with the next presidential election. If they gather 615,000 names the state will have a referendum on "affirmative action." If it passes there will be no more official preference granted to women and minorities in awarding jobs and contracts.

Under U.S. law, state bodies can and do favour women, blacks and Hispanics over white males — all in the name of remedying past discrimination. It is this above all else that has put the "angry" into angry white men. Across America white males complain of losing out to less qualified women, squeezed out by PC quotas.

"It really burns your butt," says Randy Pech, whose case will be heard next week by the U.S. Supreme Court. He is suing the government after his company lost a federal building contract in Colorado. His firm entered the cheapest bid, but were beaten by a Hispanic-run concern. "We're a small, family-owned company. We don't discriminate. Why

should we be punished?"

The Supreme Court, now with a moderate-conservative majority, could well agree and use Mr. Pech's case to reduce sharply the scope of affirmative action. His lawyers are asking the court to bring federal law into line with state and local rules, which bar positive discrimination except when it corrects proven past prejudice. Much is at stake. Under schemes started 20 years ago by Richard Nixon, racial calculations play a part in government spending on everything from defence parts to cleaning contracts. More than \$13 billion of federal money goes to small businesses owned by minorities.

The anger that fuels the movement is striking because it cuts across all the usual boundaries. You bear the same complaints from the

California Governor Pete Wilson — always a canny reader of the public mood — has lent his support, announcing that he, too, supports eliminating preference programmes. Mr. Wilson was criticised last November for supporting Proposition 187, which denied key public services to illegal immigrants. But the measure passed with a whopping majority. The Civil Rights Initiative offers just the same brew of touchy racial and economic issues, and opponents are already gearing up for a re-run of the Proposition 187 battle.

The anger that fuels the movement is striking because it cuts across all the usual boundaries. You bear the same complaints from the

firefighter in Wisconsin as the journalist in New York — both claiming to be punished for being part of a shamed elite.

Senator Jesse Helms, bete noire of the left, struck this same nerve in his 1990 Senate re-election campaign. His TV ad showed a pair of white hands clutching a job rejection letter, while a voiceover revealed the vacancy had gone to a "minority." Mr. Helms came from behind and won.

Women are no less a target for the white male's anger. Hollywood has played to it twice in the last two months. The plot of Disclosure has Michael Douglas being sexually harassed by a ruthless Demi Moore and losing a

promotion to her; while David Mamet's Oleanna articulated male frustration at the purported tyranny of workplace rules against sexual harassment.

For positive discrimination has not been confined to the public sector. Top companies have invited multicultural consultants to advise on sensitivity, and middle-managers have found their own fortunes contingent on the ethnic and sexual diversity of their payrolls.

But now there is a counterblast to the PC mindset, and it has even reached the birthplace of political correctness: American academia. Academic and critic Harold Bloom ruffled feathers last year with his book Western

Canon for asserting the superiority of dozens of white male writers. His inclusion of Philip Roth nine times in his Top 500 — and his exclusion of black female heroines such as Alice Walker — was the first indication that the intellectual tide was turning no less than the political one.

Since then has come the best-selling *Dictatorship Of Virtue* by Richard Bernstein, a diatribe against the inherently anti-pluralistic excesses of multiculturalism. Written by a liberal from the PC-sensitive New York Times, the book amounted to the breaking of a taboo.

The opposition is already forming, fearful of losing the real gains positive discrimination has made. Former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson has been swift: "This is yet another effort to roll back the process of inclusion," he said.

Interestingly, Mr. Jackson will not be able to rely even on solid black support. A growing number of middle-class blacks are conservatives, in the mould of controversial Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. They argue that affirmative action has produced more racism, not less, by causing resentment, and undermining legitimate black achievement.

"He only got the job because of his colour." Other black writers note that the real beneficiaries of positive discrimination have been well-to-do white women and that pure economic need would be a fairer criterion.

The "whitelash" is gaining strength each day. Many of the Republican young Turks now in Congress owe their seats to angry white male voters. Some are pushing for a federal law against preference for "protected groups" and may attach riders to all spending bills, preventing government agencies discriminating positively.

If it passed, President Clinton would either have to sign it or veto it. A veto would hand the Republicans just the kind of campaign issue on which they would love to fight for the White House in 1996. But approval would split the Democratic coalition by pitting women and blacks against the angry white men of organised labour.

Perhaps the most striking thought is not this latest counter-revolution itself so much as the simple fact that America is still obsessed with the same topics that preoccupied it in King's day, and in the civil war a century before: race, race and race.

*The Guardian*

## The whitelash starts here

Two decades of political correctness have cost some American men dear. Now they're fighting back



## Jordan backs resolution

(Continued from page 1)

told Reuters that the 16-member panel also discussed forming an Islamic agency to raise funds for Jerusalem and help Palestinians rebuild their institutions there and buy Arab homes back from Israel.

Mr. Kabariti will hold talks with Tunisian officials on bilateral relations and issues pertaining to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Tunisian Joint Committee to be hosted by Tunisia and chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Reporting on the meeting, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali said,

**Chechens announce truce**

(Continued from page 1)

In Grozny, Chechen fighters reacted with suspicion and scorn to Mr. Chernomyrdin's televised appeal Monday night. They unleashed a string of obscenities and spat in contempt.

"We don't trust Yeltsin. Chernomyrdin is not important. The war will go on," said a Chechen fighter who gave his first name as Salman.

**Yemen softens stand in row**

(Continued from page 1)

With Saudi Arabia are likely to prevent us from resorting to international arbitration," Mr. Ansari told the press conference: "We are ready to discuss borders as long as it is done equitably," warning that "in the past, Yemen rejected even the original Taif agreement."

Saudi-Yemen relations deteriorated during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of backing Baghdad, and worsened during Yemen's two-month civil war last year.

Meanwhile an economic delegation travelling with Mr. Saleh said they had "excellent contacts" with French officials and businessmen aimed at attracting investment to Yemen, which lost

## 2,700 feared dead in Japan

(Continued from page 1)

dug into rubble with their hands to search for more than 1,000 missing people, including 20 patients trapped in the debris of a collapsed Kobe hospital.

Dozens of cars were squashed by the collapse of an elevated highway just outside Kobe, and 10 trains were derailed.

A total of nearly 10,000 houses, buildings and other structures were completely destroyed or partially damaged by the quake, which struck Japan's second-most populated area and one of its most industrialised, the national police agency said.

Damage and casualties were in 100 kilometres radius around Kobe, extending to Osaka and Kyoto, where temples and priceless Buddha statues were damaged.

Nearly all the dead and more than half the injured were in the elegant city of Kobe, which nestles between mountains and the Sea of

Korea.

The quake snapped vital lifelines to western Japan, cutting train service including the high-speed "Buller" train, knocking out power and cutting telephone service.

The earthquake also shattered Japan's belief that its newer buildings and roads

would be able to withstand a major quake due to sophisticated engineering.

During U.S. earthquakes that have wrecked roads, Japanese experts had confidently predicted those in this country would stand up to even a serious quake. But sections of several major expressways collapsed, as did many modern buildings.

Reuter correspondent Abi Sekimitsu, who flew over the devastated area in a helicopter, said the scene resembled one of Japan's "Godzilla" monster movies with the landscape scarred by fires, twisted roads and crumpled buildings.

"From the air it looks as though some prehistoric creature had trampled through the area," she said.

The quake, officially named "the 1995 Southern Hyogo Prefectural Earthquake," struck at 5:46 a.m. (0246 GMT), rumbling across the centre of Honshu island from the Japan Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

The epicentre of the quake was located about 20 kilometres beneath the island of Awajishima, which is about 30 kilometres offshore from Kobe.

Many houses also collapsed on the island, which is a fishing village and popular tourist spot for the 1.5 million residents of Kobe, Japan's main western port.

The quake was the latest in

a series of tremors that have rolled through northern and central Japan in the last three weeks.

Experts had been warning that a major earthquake might be on its way for the past few weeks. The latest quake hit nine days after three major tremors, ranging from a 3.2 on the Richter scale just outside Tokyo to 6.9 and 4.2 readings in Hachinohe, 500 kilometres north of the capital.

Most of the people missing were in collapsed buildings in Kobe, including an eight-storey building and a three-storey hotel.

"We were not prepared for this, because we never thought a quake of this magnitude could hit the Kansai area," said businessman Kai-sumi Takeuchi, 53.

Skies were black with sooty smoke over western and central Kobe, the hardest hit areas of the city, as fire raged through many districts.

Long lines formed at the few functioning public phones in the city centre.

The Hanshin highway link between the island of Awajishima and the mainland was severed by the collapse of about half a kilometre of an elevated section once supported by 30-metre pillars.

Elevated highways were reported to have collapsed at another eight points across the city, crushing several drivers to death. Seven trains were de-

railed and five bullet-train bridges destroyed.

For some there was a miraculous escape. Koji Kuwahara, a company worker in nearby Nishinomiya, described how he was driving on the expressway, when the road "suddenly waved and the highway fell over towards the mountainside."

"My car and others slipped off together," he said.

The shallowness of the quake and its proximity to a major population centre were also blamed for the massive destruction.

"The damage would have been much worse if it occurred during business hours," Yoshi Kawata of Kyoto University noted.

The Bank of Japan ordered financial institutions in western Japan to take emergency measures from Wednesday to supply depositors with cash.

The Osaka-Kobe conurbation is one of the wealthiest regions in Japan, but local officials were agog at the scale of the economic damage inflicted by nature.

Kobe Steel Ltd., one of Japan's biggest steelmakers, suspended production at its steelworks here, one of its main plants in Japan.

Matsushita, the world's largest consumer electronics maker, also halted production at its Kobe plant which makes personal computers, word processors and video games.

## Saddam: Anti-Iraq camp is crumbling

(Continued from page 1)

Sabah said Iraq was still a threat to Kuwait and Medina into "a theatre for the army of the infidels" during the war.

He praised the performance of his army in the 42-day war which resulted in the ousting of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"Despite the long confrontation in which all weapons of destruction and death were used as well as the ensuing acts of treason prompted by the anti-Arab hatred coming from Iran, Iraq and its army have emerged strong despite all the wounds or the loss of life of sons and brothers."

"This has infuriated aggressors who have come to realise that they completely failed, especially after Iraq has reconstructed all that had been destroyed by the aggressors."

In Kuwait, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Sabah said Iraq was still a threat to Kuwait and Medina into "a theatre for the army of the infidels" during the war.

Sheikh Mohammad, who is the UAE's defence minister, was recently named by Dubai's ruling Maktoum family as crown prince of Dubai, the second largest emirate federated in the UAE.

His call for Kuwaitis to "forget the past" and make up with Iraq last week sent shock waves through Kuwait.

Sheikh Mohammad told Al Seyassah that while his call has met with opposition, it has also won support from Gulf and Arab officials.

In the Al Seyassah interview, he also called on Arab leaders to take the initiative and set up a pan-Arab economic bloc, a step which he believes would unify the 22 members of the Arab League.

"My call for the brothers in Kuwait to extend bridges of love with Iraq and the Iraqi people flows out of my love for Kuwait and its people and kind interest (for their welfare)," he said in an interview published Wednesday in Kuwait's Al Seyassah daily.

little to look forward to in revenues from this direction.

Raboin said that while the issue was beyond the immediate jurisdiction of his panel, Jordan stood a better chance of establishing a direct linkage between the crisis and the losses it suffered. "He would not elaborate.

Funds for the committee are supposed to come from the diversion of 30 per cent of all Iraqi oil exports as called for in U.N. Security Council Resolution 778 of October 1992. But as long as Iraqi oil sales remain frozen under the sanctions, the committee has

Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. These tasks involve demarcation of new Iraq-Kuwait borders (which is already completed), the monitoring of the frontier and elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Forty-three countries which have Iraqi oil assets have not transferred the funds to the account because Resolution 778 left it to the judgement of individual governments to make the transfer depending on whether they themselves or local businesses stood to claim compensation for losses suffered in the Gulf crisis.

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# Economy

## U.S. agriculture official sees great opportunity in Mideast

DUBAI. United Arab Emirates (AP) — A top U.S. official, pointing out that the economic growth in the Middle East could surpass that of China and India, said that there is great opportunity for U.S. agriculture in the region.

Eugene Moos, under-secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services, told members of the American Business Council in Dubai Monday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will act as a conduit for information to the Gulf region.

His remarks were published in newspapers here Tuesday.

"As I go around the world looking at emerging markets in terms of attempting to

focus our resources, I can see great potential in this area," Mr. Moos said. "It's more than an emerging market, it's a sophisticated market, and I see great opportunity here for U.S. agriculture."

Mr. Moos was in the emirate for the Gulf Food Exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Centre, at which more than 50 U.S. companies are participating.

He outlined U.S. agricultural interests and highlighted the gradual phasing out of government farm subsidies in the coming years to improve U.S. competitiveness around the globe.

The Department of Agriculture sees one of its major responsibilities as acting as a

conduit for information to U.S. food supplies and processors on emerging markets like the Gulf.

The department is also interested in assisting developing countries to enhance their agricultural sectors, and can provide technical expertise, a vital part of their economic growth and potential for becoming U.S. customers, he said.

"When I look at Dubai I'm struck by how similar it is to what I saw in Hong Kong or Singapore, where a lot of trade is being channelled through one centre, and seems to me the potential here is enormous to satisfy the growing demand which is to come," Mr. Moos added.

around the world, seeing how even \$200-\$300 of per capita income, when multiplied by hundreds and millions of people in China, Indonesia and now India, will provide the growth," Mr. Moos said.

"We're now able to recognise the potential in this area of the world, and that's one message I'll be carrying back to share with the Department of Agriculture, administration officials, and members of the new Congress," he noted.

Mr. Moos explained that the United States needs to get organised to get a share of the growing food market around the world.

The Department of Agriculture sees one of its major responsibilities as acting as a

## Kuwait must end spending waste — premier

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said in remarks published Tuesday he wanted to rationalise government spending to eliminate waste and extravagance and raise sources of revenue other than oil to curb a big budget deficit.

"There is squandering and extravagance, hence there must also be rationalisation of spending," Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah told Al Watan newspaper.

"We do not think about our present only. We care for the future generations," said Sheikh Saad, who is also the crown prince.

The government, in its most ambitious effort at fiscal restraint, plans to slash a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit by a third to one billion dinars (\$3.34 billion) in the

1995/96 financial year starting on July 1.

Officials are worried by a deficit that has ballooned due to the war in which a U.S.-led alliance ejected Iraq from the emirate. The government says that next year it will cut spending in several sectors, reduce subsidies on petrol and services such as water and electricity and increase customs levies.

The measures are bound to generate heated debate among 670,000 Kuwaitis used to generous welfare state benefits. Some benefits are also extended to the million-strong army of guest workers who make up the rest of the 1.7 million population.

Sheikh Saad gave no details of public spending waste but said proposed increases

in charges for public utilities should not be imposed on less well-off Kuwaitis and other residents.

The measures were not aimed at "gaining profits for the government" but at rationalising the use of such services.

"Yes, there is a financial deficit as the figures show. But God willing that deficit will not continue, and at the same time, sooner or later, there ought to be some other sources of revenue found in support of the current one (oil)," he said.

Oil accounts for 90 per cent of state revenue, a marked change from before the war

when income from now-depleted state foreign investments sometimes exceeded oil earnings.

Business

daily

beat

A review

of economic news

in the Arabic press

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JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

when income from now-depleted state foreign investments sometimes exceeded oil earnings.

Business say increasing non-oil revenue will have to be done by encouraging the growth of a moribund private sector depressed by worries about Iraq, debt problems and a fall in population since the 1991 conflict.

The government has said that in the long term income tax might have to be introduced. Sheikh Saad made no mention of tax and gave no details of the new service charges, saying it was premature to talk about what formula would be used.

## HITACHI

Said Al Sayed Khalilouf and Sons Co., agents of HITACHI of Japan and PHILCO of the USA

**Business  
Daily  
Dear**  
*A review  
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★★ The association of pharmacists' board decided to ban contacts and dealings with all Israeli medical organisations. The association said governments could sign treaties but could not force normalisation of ties on private establishments and the people at large (Al Ra'i).

★★ According to new instructions issued by the water authority, the price of one cubic metre of drinking water sold by water tanks is JD 1.750 within the Greater Amman area. The price is JD 1.500 per cubic metre for delivery outside Amman (Al Ra'i).

★★ The Cabinet decided to bring service charges provided by the Ports Authority to JD 1.000 per passenger for the handling of luggage and 750 fils for general services (Al Ra'i).

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★★ Taxpayers who are entitled to refunds from the Income Tax Department can collect their payments starting next week. The payment will be done on a first "applied" first paid basis. (Sawt Al Shaab).

★★ A delegation representing the chambers of commerce in Gaza will Friday begin a 3-day visit to Jordan (Al Ra'i).

★★ Former minister Jawad Anani said Jordan succeeded in convincing 37 countries and three international organisations of the need to set up a development bank for the Middle East. Dr. Anani also said that the economic summit for the Mideast will be held annually, with the third meeting to be held in Turkey in October 1996 (Al Dustour).

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★★ The director-general of the Customs Department denied there is any intention for more reductions in customs on cars. He also emphasised that by joining GATT, Jordan is under no obligation to reduce its tariffs to unacceptable levels whereby industries and other resources would be affected (Al Dustour).

**SSC weighs changing early retirement terms**

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is considering an increase in the minimum age and years of subscription to its fund at which most beneficiaries could opt for early retirement pensions, an SSC official told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Currently, any SSC subscriber 46 years of age or more who has paid subscription fees to the SCC for at least 15 years, may claim a monthly pension reduced by 10 per cent from the regular rate, receivable at age 53.

However, there is a general opinion in the SCC that the current conditions for early retirement should be amended and limited instead to those working in jobs demanding hard physical labour, and women with families in mind, Mr. Issa said, as well as alleviating unemployment problems for young people by giving senior workers the opportunity for secure early retirement.

All other subscribers, he said, would then be entitled to claim early retirement pensions after 50 years of age and 20 years of subscription to the SCC.

The deliberations on amending the SCC provisions for early retirement come at the same time that the very first small numbers of SCC subscribers who joined the fund soon after it became operational in 1979, are becoming eligible to opt for early retirement pensions from the SCC.

The current conditions for early retirement in the Social Security Law, unmodified since it was enacted in 1978,

were originally set up with labourers facing heavy physical toil and mothers with families in mind, Mr. Issa said, as well as alleviating unemployment problems for young people by giving senior workers the opportunity for secure early retirement.

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**Quake severely disrupts business in central Japan**

TOKYO (R) — Business activities in central Japan were severely disrupted Tuesday by the massive earthquake which crippled communication lines, power cables, railways and highways.

Japan's second largest bourse cancelled most trading and some financial institutions and manufacturers halted operations after the quake, which wreaked havoc in the Japanese cities of Osaka, the country's second largest, the ancient imperial capital of Kyoto and Japan's main western port of Kobe.

The quake, registering 7.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, was the biggest to hit the Kansai area since 1946.

Terminals at the port of Kobe, a central Japan hub for container shipping, were inoperable, and shipping lines were considering diverting their container ships to other ports in Japan to unload cargo, mostly from North America and Europe.

Major computer maker Fujitsu Ltd. temporarily shut its display and peripheral plant in Akashi near Kobe as the earthquake had damaged one of the buildings, a spokesman said.

"Because communication lines are cut, we don't know if the production line has been damaged or not," he said.

Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told reporters his ministry would do its utmost to extend emergency aid to the quake-hit regions. "As for securing (for the aid) we want to do our utmost because this is an emergency," he said.

The ministry and the Bank of Japan jointly announced that they would take a set of emergency financial measures to be taken by financial institutions and life insurers for the victims of the latest quakes including corporations.

Hyogo Bank Ltd. and Hanshin Bank Ltd., based in central Japan, stopped all operations at its two major steelworks.

Automaker Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd. halted production at two plants in western Japan. "We still don't know the extent of damage at the plants due to communications problems," a Daihatsu spokesman said.

Hyogo Bank Ltd. and Hanshin Bank Ltd., based in central Japan, said problems with their computer centres had forced them to shut down some of their branches today.

Daiwa Bank Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Ltd. and Sanwa Bank Ltd. said their host computers were unaffected, but some of their branch offices in the region were not

expected to open because of traffic confusion and power cuts.

Brokerage Nomura Securities Co. said the quake wreaked disorder in their two offices in Kobe. "There's a power cut, the computer's down, and the internal telephone network is also not working," a Nomura spokesman said.

Airline officials in Tokyo told Reuters airports in the region, including Kansai International Airport, sustained no serious damage. But flights were delayed as many passengers and crew could not reach the airports because of traffic snarls.

At least two oil refineries and several oil processing units including those of Cosmo Oil and General Sekiyu KK were shut down due to the quake, but few were reported damaged.

Tokyo share prices ended lower, suppressed by small lot selling as the earthquake

kept most investors on the sidelines. The 225-share Nikkei average share finished Tuesday down 89.85 points, or 0.46 per cent at 19,241.32.

Share prices of insurance companies fell in Tokyo on fears they would be liable for damage claims, while the dollar rose against the yen to around 99.27 yen on worries the quake might affect the Japanese economy. Some construction firms' share prices rose as market players speculated they would benefit from rebuilding after the quake.

Japanese government bond prices closed sharply lower on worries that extra bonds might be issued to fund government emergency aid.

Four commodity exchange in western Japan cancelled their trading today — the Kobe Rubber Exchange, the Kansai Agricultural Commodity Exchange, the Osaka Textile Exchange, and the Kobe Silk Exchange.

Financial Markets			Jordan Times		
			In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close Date 16/1/95	Tokyo Close Date 17/1/95			
Sterling Pound*	1.5685	1.5645**			
Deutsche Mark	1.5308	1.5362			
Swiss Franc	1.2843	1.2895**			
French Franc	5.2925	5.3095**			
Japanese Yen	98.59	99.26			
European Currency Unit	1.2550	1.2552**			
* USD per JYD					
** European Opening of 230 JYD CNY					
International Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.87	6.37	6.81	
Sterling Pound	5.81	6.06	6.18	6.75	
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.87	5.12	5.62	
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.81	6.12	6.37	
French Franc	5.37	5.75	6.18	6.75	
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.25	2.31	2.50	
European Currency Unit	5.82	6.17	6.57	7.02	
Interest bid rates for markets exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm**
Gold	377.80	7.50	Silver	4.50	0.10
* Per Oz					
** Gram					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000			
Sterling Pound	1.0914	1.0969			
Deutsche Mark	0.4534	0.4561			
Swiss Franc	0.5405	0.5432			
French Franc	0.1313	0.1320			
Japanese Yen*	0.7025	0.7060			
Dutch Guilder	0.4046	0.4066			
Swedish Krona	*****	*****			
Italian Lira*	0.0455	0.0455			
Belgian Franc	*****	*****			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies			Date: 17/1/95		
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8550	1.8480			
Liberian Lira*	0.041475	0.042785			
Saudi Riyal	0.1854	0.1870			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.5620			
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1918			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2140			
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8130			
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1906			
Greek Drachma*	0.2775	0.5155			
Cypriot Pound	1.4125	1.5150			

**LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4172/62  
1.5302/12  
1.7158/68  
1.2840/50  
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## Courtroom battle looms over World Cup stadium

**PARIS (AFP)** — A courtroom battle is looming between France's most famous architect and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over plans to build a new stadium to host football's World Cup final in 1998.

Jean Nouvel won the architectural competition to design the two billion franc (\$400 million) Grande Stade on industrial wasteland in St. Denis, eight kilometres north of Paris.

Balladur overruled the decision and picked the rival bid, adding a new twist to years of intrigue surrounding France's last big construction project of the century.

Nouvel has vowed to drag the prime minister through the courts unless he annuls the decision by the end of this week.

"If we can't get justice in France, we will go all the way to the European court," said Michel Huet, Nouvel's lawyer.

The architect is suing Balladur over breach of fair competition as stipulated under French law, arguing that the tender was rigged from start to finish in favour of a rival bid dismissed as "pathetic" by the leading French specialist magazine Architecture Today.

The state originally wanted the most advanced stadium ever conceived, seating 80,000 people for soccer, rugby, the world athletics championships, and dearest to French hearts, an Olympic Games.

To secure the financial viability of the stadium, it also demanded enough flexibility for it to serve as home base for a first division French football club — Paris St. Germain — where crowds of up to 40,000 would not feel lost in acres of empty space.

Post-modernist guru Nouvel beat a rival group of four Paris architects led by Michel Macary and Aymeric Zublena by 10 votes to four in a last round of jury voting in July after a preliminary round in May.

For 2.1 billion francs Nouvel offered a structure that within two days could change shape from a rectangular international rugby or football ground to an oval athletic stadium.

In addition to a sliding roof, ground capacity could be reduced to 40,000 for French club football using a system of suspended curtains shutting off unfilled areas.

The government admits the winning tender, priced at 1.9 billion francs, failed miserably on the last point, making no "realistic" attempt to accommodate club football.

According to Nouvel, the rival bid got away with a string of competition rule violations.

Major modifications to the design were logically carried out between the two jury sittings in May and July, with the stadium changing shape and location, losing its roof, and ditching its only technological innovation, a mechanism to raise and lower the playing area.

The government said visibility was "ideal" in Nouvel's stadium. But with stands 20 metres further away and sloping gradually, the winning design will produce "the worst stadium in France," says Nouvel.

In response to Nouvel's initial protest last month the government explained that Balladur's choice was only a "preliminary step," though the rival group is locked in contract negotiations with the government and has already applied for planning permission.

The rival architects say Nouvel is attempting to "discredit" them, while the government dismissed as "pointless" his court case which could delay plans to begin construction before the summer and complete the stadium by the end of 1997.

French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said Nouvel's plan "seduced the architects but sportsmen preferred the other."

Not so. Joao Havelange, the head of FIFA who awarded the 1998 World Cup to France, supports Nouvel. Alliot-Marie promised him an 80,000 seater stadium with a roof.

"We originally planned a roof, but then forgot about it," said spokesman for the winning design.

Of the leading French sports federation chiefs, rugby supreme Bernard Lapasset is alone in favouring the winning design, which he says is "shaped like a rugby ball."

Athletics federation chief Jean Pocoblet prefers Nouvel's design, which also won a straw poll of the French football team. Coach Aime Jacquet said: "Nouvel's square stadium is best. I want the stands as close as possible to the pitch."

French international Alain Roche, who also captains Paris St. Germain, for whom the Grande Stade will become the home ground, said: "A square stadium would have been better. I hope I don't have to play there very often."

## Cypriot referees end strike

**NICOSIA (R)** — Cypriot soccer referees, who went on strike over crowd violence but were replaced for last weekend's games by foreign imports, admitted defeat Tuesday and dissolved their association board.

"We are in a very weak position ... first the imported referees and then our members who responded to the (football) federation's call to break away from the association," Christos Skapoulis, a spokesman for the island's 200 referees, told Reuters.

"We have dissolved our seven-member board and will elect a temporary new one tonight. We are not on strike anymore ... we will come up with new proposals. We are certain no foreign referee will whistle this weekend."

Soccer officials last weekend brought in nine Israelis and 12 Czechs to replace Cypriot referees who began their strike last week, saying they could no longer tolerate violence from them by hooligans. One referee had his arm broken this month.

They were also protesting against the refusal of the Cyprus Football Federation to incorporate them while keeping their independence. The federation wants unconditional control over the referees.

Federation President Marios Lefkaritis said Tuesday more than 110 Cypriot referees had already left the federation and joined the federation.

But he was not certain whether this weekend's fixtures would be officiated by Cypriot referees.

"It could be Cypriots, it could be foreigners. We don't know yet. We will decide this tomorrow... the issue is not whether the referees have a new board but the fact that their unacceptable attitude and status will remain the same."

Lefkaritis accused referees of enjoying a monopoly for too long and dismissed their assertion that they were striking because of systematic violence against them.

"How come last weekend's games were totally violence-free? Why do they try to give the impression the games are always blood-stained? ... There is prejudice against Cypriot referees but why?" he asked.

The new owner said he was committed to keeping the Bucs in the Tampa Bay area, which campaigned to keep the club when it appeared it might be sold and moved to Baltimore.

Glazer insisted in the sale agreement that he keep the team in Tampa a minimum of two years. The contract also includes provisions for a \$55 million penalty if the team is relocated within 10 years.

The buck stops here," he said. "Tampa Bay is going to have this team forever as far as the Glazer family is concerned."

The agreement reportedly also includes provisions for

## Ewing leads Knicks past Nets; Bulls lose

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Patrick Ewing had a season-high 32 points and 15 rebounds Monday as the Knicks won for the ninth time in 10 games, beating the New Jersey Nets 107-90.

Ewing had 18 points in the decisive second quarter when the Knicks broke open the game. Derek Harper added 15 for New York.

Derrick Coleman had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who have lost five of seven games, and Kenny Anderson had 16.

The Knicks blew to a 64-41 halftime advantage and took a 77-51 lead on a 3-pointer by Hubert Davis with 3:40 left in the third quarter, a period in which the Nets missed 14 of 16 field goal attempts.

Bulls 109, Bucks 101: In Landover, Maryland, the Bullets ended their 10-game losing streak, getting 14 fourth-quarter points from Calbert Cheaney in a comeback victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Cheaney scored 23 and Juvan Howard 22 for the Bullets, who had been winless since beating the Los Angeles Clippers on the road Dec. 23. Washington also ended its eight-game home losing streak.

B.J. Armstrong had 26 points and Scottie Pippen 21 for the Bucks. In Philadelphia, Joe Dumars scored 35 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, as the Detroit Pistons beat Philadelphia, sending the 76ers to their ninth consecutive loss.

Dumars, who made 12 of 18 shots, helped the Pistons pull away when he connected on a 3-pointer with 1:02 left, giving Detroit a 112-106 lead.

Rafael Addison and Allan Houston each had 18 points for the Pistons, with Houston perfect on four 3-point shots.

Damian Barros had 26 points and 12 assists for Philadelphia.

Hawks 99, Heat 95: In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points and Craig Ehlo 19 as the Hawks edged Miami, lifting their regular season home court record

against the Heat to 12-0.

The Heat cut the lead to 98-95 with 18 seconds left on a basket by Glen Rice, who was fouled on the play. Rice missed the free throw. Atlanta got the rebound in a scramble and Blaylock eventually put the game on ice, hitting one of two free throws with

just under eight seconds remaining.

Billy Owens led the Heat with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Rice added 21 points.

Lakers 96, Clippers 88: In Ingewood, California, Nick Van Exel scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and rookie Eddie Jones added 23 as the Lakers dealt the Clippers their sixth straight loss.

Cedric Ceballos scored six of his 18 points during a pivotal fourth-quarter rally and had 13 rebounds, helping the Lakers win the 12th time in 15 games.

The Lakers turned a 12-point deficit into an 88-81 lead, outscoring the Clippers 23-4 during a 6:06 span of the fourth quarter.

Loy Vaught scored 18 points and Doug West had 11 points six assists and a career-high 11 rebounds for the Wolves, who held Hakeem Olajuwon to 22 points.

Jazz 99, Pacers 98: In Indianapolis, Antoine Carr scored all six Utah points in overtime for the Jazz, who kept their club-record 13th straight on the road with a 99-98 overtime victory over the Pacers.

Utah won its sixth straight overall and is 7-1 in January.

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## Rafter is new Australian hero

MELBOURNE (AP) — He doesn't wear a checkered headband and has yet to win Wimbledon. But Pat Rafter has more in common with Pat Cash than first names.

Like Cash, Rafter has lots of ability, a similar attacking game and has emerged as a heart-throb for Australia's teenaged tennis fans.

The lanky 22-year-old has also taken over as Australia's top-ranked men's player at No. 21 in the world.

Cheered on by the fiercely partisan crowd, Rafter edged into the second round of the Australian Open Tennis Championships Tuesday with a three-hour, seven-minute 6-3, 1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 triumph over experienced Swiss player Jakob Hlasek.

The National Tennis Centre's retractable roof had been closed to allow the match to go ahead as rain delayed proceedings outside.

But the crowd — screaming "c'mon Pat" and "c'mon Aussie" at any opportunity throughout the match — then did their best to lift it with wild cheering after the Australian put away a Hlasek backhand on the fifth match point.

The win went some way to wiping away the disappointment of his third-round exit to Xavier Dauifresne of Belgium last year, a match Australians had expected him to win.

"Last time on the centre court here I let a lot of people down, including myself," said Rafter, who beat a jet-lagged Andre Agassi in an exhibition event in Adelaide last week, and overcame a rash of unforced errors Tuesday.

"It was good to come back and show the crowd I can play and the reason why I'm the No. 1 in Australia," he said.

Rafter admitted to being nervous and the tension



Rising Australian Patrick Rafter dives for the ball

showed in a verbal outburst a linesman who had called a Hlasek shot in at the start of the fourth set.

"Sometimes it's important to get rid of the frustration," said Rafter.

"If you keep it inside it can really upset your match ... I did lose it, but I had to go

thank him because he got me in full gear."

Rafter, who's originally from the remote mining community of Mt. Isa, Queensland, now bases himself in Bermuda.

Asked if he was recognised in the streets there, he replied: "No, there's all sorts of

## Australian Open Agassi, Sanchez Vicario advance as Sabatini and Ivanisevic crash out

MELBOURNE (Agencies)

— Andre Agassi and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario both breezed through their first-round matches Tuesday at the Australian Open — but only Sanchez Vicario left her opponent sobbing controlably.

Meanwhile Gabriela Sabatini suffered her most ignominious Australian Open loss when she joined Goran Ivanisevic as one of the big-name losers.

Sabatini, the Argentinian glamour girl of tennis who came here on the back of two consecutive tournament victories after ending a two-and-a-half year, 42-tournament drought, bowed out 6-4, 6-4 to American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer.

Patrick McEnroe of the United States knocked former winner and No. 3 seed Boris Becker out of the Australian Open in a first round match.

McEnroe defeated Becker 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) and will play Britain's Jeremy Bates in the next round.

Agassi made his long-awaited Australian Open debut with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win over South African qualifier Grant Stafford in only 90 minutes.

It was an impressively-controlled performance from the U.S. Open champion and No. 2 seed, who wore a typically-colourful outfit and had a purple bandana tied around his head.

"The crowd got pretty excited," Agassi said.

Sanchez Vicario cruised equally imperiously past China's Fang Li in her women's singles opener, taking just 50 minutes to advance to the second round while reducing her opponent to tears.

The U.S. and French Open champion — the top seed in a Grand Slam tournament for

the first time in her career — downed her inexperienced opponent 6-2, 6-0.

The Chinese player reportedly was left stranded by the power and pace of Sanchez Vicario's shots from the back of the court and wept into her towel after falling 0-5 behind in the second set.

Li cried until it was time to get back on court, then returned to play with her eyes puffy and tears on her cheeks. She made a total of 42 unforced errors and won just 24 points to Sanchez Vicario's 56.

Li said she "felt like a beginner" in the match.

"I couldn't do anything," she said. "Arantxa didn't kill me. I made a lot of mistakes. I thought I could do better. I was in a little bit of a hurry. I wanted to do everything. Sometimes I forget everything. I couldn't hit a ball."

Sanchez Vicario, who said she didn't even notice Li crying, tapped her on the back after they shook hands at the net, but there was little consolation she could offer.

"She's trying but she couldn't hit the ball on the court," Sanchez Vicario said. "She gets more frustrated."

Sanchez Vicario will overtake Steffi Graf at the top of the world rankings if she accumulates 655 rankings points at the Open. She almost certainly will need to win the tournament to do that.

Graf is absent from the first Grand Slam of the year with a calf muscle injury, ensuring a new women's champion. None of the women in the 128-draw event ever has won the Australian Open.

Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine caused the first upset of the tournament, ousting women's No. 9 seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria

4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

There was an upset, too, in the men's singles with Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, a semifinalist last week in Sydney, ousting No. 12 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 despite suffering from tendinitis in his right serving arm.

"I'm very pleased with the win, especially because I haven't been feeling well," said Gaudenzi. "I didn't even feel like playing this morning, but I went out and fought for every point."

Play on outside courts was delayed for four hours by persistent rain, but continued on centre court after the retractable roof at the National Tennis Centre was closed.

Agassi said his new attitude towards tennis is the reason for his decision to play in the Australian Open for the first time.

"Being down here is a reflection of my commitment to tennis," he said. "In the past it interfered with my other priorities."

"Now tennis has become part of my life. This is not taxing at all, and it used to be."

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, is being played on rubberised rebound courts. It offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Jan. 29.

Earlier Ivoisevic complained his poor form as 94th-ranked Steeb rolled to a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory.

Sabatini, cheered on by sections of blue and white face-daubed fans, called the trainer to manipulate a back injury during the second set and it was 10 minutes before she was able to resume playing.

Werdel Whitmeyer, ranked 47 and who beat Sabatini the last time they played, said

the conditions suited her.

"It was a first round match and Gaby had just had a long week last week and I was prepared to play her," said 27-year-old Werdel Whitmeyer from San Diego, California.

"When Gaby was getting treatment I tried to stay loose and kept concentrating... you have to continue what you were doing when play starts again."

Sabatini said she experienced pain in the lower part of her back at the beginning of the second set.

"It was really painful and after the treatment the pain was still there, it was very tight in a certain spot," she said.

"She is a tough opponent and she didn't miss many balls... I didn't feel good with my shots."

Werdel is married to Ron Whitmeyer, who has had major league baseball experience with the Oakland A's.

### Madagascar scores

Madagascar enjoyed its proudest tennis moment at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

In fact, teenager Dally Randriantely achieved the African island's only moment in tennis history, beating Argentine Florencia Labat 6-3, 7-6 on an outside court for Madagascar's first success at an international tournament.

Randriantely, 16, represents half of her country's professional ranks. Her 17-year-old sister Natasiba makes up the other half.

She said she hoped her success might persuade her Swiss sponsor to reverse a decision to end their sponsorship assistance following a succession of failures in qualifying tournaments.

## World's top golfers in Dubai Classic

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Zimbabwe's Nick Price, Australia's Greg Norman and Germany's Bernhard Langer, the top three of golf's world rankings, will head the challenge to defending champion Ernie Els of South Africa in the \$450,000 (\$675,000) Dubai Desert Classic.

The tournament runs from Jan. 19 to 22 at the Emirates Golf Club.

The Classic starts the 1995 Volvo PGA European Tour schedule, and with six of the world's top 10 having entered, can boast one of the strongest and most attractive fields outside a major championship.

Also appearing will be America's Fred Couples, the world No. 7 who missed the cut last year and wound up providing commentary for a local radio station.

He arrived early Monday and sped to the 18-hole course. Couples was voted by PGA players last year as the best on the tour.

"It's too early to comment on my chances in the classic, but I sure don't want to miss the cut this time," said Couples, the U.S. Rider Cup player who helped United States win three world cups.

Trying out a few swings on the 9th hole on Monday was Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, ranked 8th. He has yet to win a major, having lost to Els in a play-off for last year's U.S. Open.

But the big Scot gained some consolation by topping the European money list for the second consecutive year.

Between them, these six players can boast nine major championships.

Els' stunning six-shot win last year was the prelude to a year which saw the 26-year old shoot to superstar status with victories in the U.S. Open, Toyota World Match Play, Gene Sarazen World Open and the Johnny Walker World Championship.

He has already started this year by capturing the Bell's Cup in his homeland.

His 20-under-par total at the Emirates Golf Club was followed on a record-breaking 11-under 61 in the first round.

Yet, he still had a hard fight in wading off the pursuing Norman, who despite a lung infection, shot four sub-70 rounds to finish second.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday meets with a delegation representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (Petra photo)

## King receives AIPAC team, reaffirms resolve for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan would pursue all efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East within the framework of the Madrid conference that launched Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with a visiting group representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the King said the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular "are entering a new phase following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Oct. 26

that restored Jordanian lands and water rights."

"The peoples of this region aspire to stability and comprehensive development of which they have been deprived for many decades," added the King at the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

The King expressed his belief that the coming stage entails diverse challenges and stressed the need for mobilizing "all efforts to deal with the challenges with resolve and commitment to achieve the aspirations of the people

living here and to attain the just and durable peace which enables them to direct their efforts towards development and serving the future generations."

The AIPAC group, led by its Chairman Steve Grossman, later met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, General Abdul Hafez Mirai, at the Army Headquarters.

The group listened to a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their contributions to U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world.

## Kurdish fighting subsides

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Fighting between rival Kurdish groups has died out in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil but the situation is still tense, a U.N. official said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Zejiani, U.N. coordinator in Iraq, said U.N. relief officials in the city, the scene of recent heavy fighting, were continuing to distribute food and fuel to needy Kurds, albeit cautiously.

"The situation is better than the day before yesterday," Mr. Zejiani told Reuters. "The relief programme

is going on cautiously in Erbil."

According to what I hear there is no fighting now, but the situation is still tense," Mr. Zejiani said Tuesday.

On Monday he said he feared for the safety of his staff in the area, including 82 U.N. troops and 120 international relief officials. The factional fighting, he said, had led to a breakdown of law and order in parts of Iraqi Kurdistan.

One of the two main Iraqi Kurdish groups battling for control of Erbil in Iraq Monday rejected an offer of

mediation from Baghdad to halt the fighting.

Sami Abdul Rahman, a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leadership, told Radio Monte Carlo he ruled out "attaching any credit to such mediation," adding that the offer was only "an Iraqi government opinion."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein offered to reopen a dialogue with the KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), following a cabinet meeting Monday.

Other speakers at the meeting included deputies Dughani, Abu Aleem and Akhu Isbeidah, in addition to member of the Mafraq Women's Committee Laila Al Nuaimi.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dame -Masri meets Wazir

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri Tuesday received Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Minister of Social Affairs Intissar Al Wazir. Ms. Damen-Masri and Ms. Wazir discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in social development and coordinating stands at the international development summit to be held in Copenhagen and the women's summit to be held in Peking this year.

### Jordan fifth in peacekeeping troop strength

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan ranks fifth in the world in terms of the number of troops participating in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world, according to a report issued recently by the United Nations. The report said the number of Jordanian troops stands at 3,614. Pakistan ranked first with a total number of 9,110, followed by France 5,149, Senegal with 4,271 and Britain with 3,820. Thirty-Nine countries contribute 69,356 troops to peacekeeping operations around the world.

### Israeli pilot dies as two jets collide

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One Israeli pilot died and a second was lightly injured when their jet fighters planes collided over the Mediterranean coast on Tuesday, the army said. The injured man ejected safely and parachuted into the sea from where he was picked up by a rescue boat. The other pilot was apparently died in his cockpit but his body ejected and the chute drifted in strong winds, an army statement said. The army did not identify the type of jets involved.

### Bahraini sheikh leaves Gulf for London

NICOSIA (AFP) — Leading Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Ali Salman left Dubai Tuesday two days after being deported there from Bahrain and flew to London, the Bahraini opposition-in-exile said. The Shiite leader may ask for political asylum in Britain where several Bahraini opposition movements are already based, opposition sources told AFP. They did not say if he was accompanied. The arrest of Sheikh Salman on Dec. 5 sparked a wave of street clashes between hundreds of young Shiites and security forces in Bahrain. The sheikh was released Sunday and deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates along with other Shiite leaders sheikhs Hamza Diri and Haidar Siti. Bahrain admitted only expelling a "group of individuals" whose "responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved."

### 5 held in July 26 bombing in London

LONDON (AFP) — Five people have been arrested in connection with the bombing of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charitable agency here last July, Scotland Yard said Tuesday. A spokesman said the five, whose names and nationalities were not given, had been arrested after "intensive investigations" and were being held under provisions of Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act. The embassy was heavily damaged and 20 persons were injured on July 26 by a bomb left in a car parked on a private road close to the building. A woman described as being of Middle Eastern appearance was briefly detained and questioned by police in the embassy bombing after two witnesses provided details for an artist's sketch, but she was released after about an hour. The charity was bombed the following day, drawing bitter criticism from Israel that sufficient security measures had not been taken around Israeli interests here in the wake of the embassy bomb.

## Mafraq deputies, women panel begin dialogue

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday met with deputies representing Mafraq Governorate in the Lower House of Parliament as well as members of women's committees in a bid to build cooperation between the two sides and to shed light on women's needs in the government.

Participants in the meeting included Speaker of the Lower House Saad Hayel Srou, Minister of State Mohammad Abu Aleem, deputies Abdul Karim Al Dughani, Nawwaf Al Qadhi and Abdullah Akhu Isbeidah.

Princess Basma said the priorities of women's committees and organisations were clearly defined, aiming first and foremost to change ways of thinking, boosting women's confidence in their capabilities and their ability to carry out a bigger role in the national development process.

The Princess said there was a need to change legislation on women. The National Women's Committee, which includes more than 1,000 members, prepared a programme and defined priorities to activate the role of women, she said pointing out that the committee's raison d'être was to serve as a link between the women's sector and deputies who can make women's voices heard in Parliament.

Mr. Srou said Jordanian women had proved their ability to take part in all aspects of life in contrast to the view that men were more capable of working in politics. "Women vied for seats in parliament in the 1989 election and managed to win one seat in the 1993 election," said the speaker, who represents the Northern Bedouins of Jordan in the House.

Other speakers at the meeting included deputies Dughani, Abu Aleem and Akhu Isbeidah, in addition to member of the Mafraq Women's Committee Laila Al Nuaimi.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Tuesday plant trees in Mafraq to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

## Prince Hassan urges attention on developing farmlands

MAFRAQ (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday urged the concerned institutions and universities to give due attention to the development of agricultural land and irrigation.

Speaking during a tree-planting ceremony at Al al-Bait University campus near Mafraq, the Crown Prince expressed hope that the coming years would witness a natural integration between the badia, the highlands and the Jordan Valley and to avoid concentration on urban areas.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath addressed the ceremony and said that abuse of the environment by man

bad led to desertification and called for efforts to reverse that.

"What we see today is part of efforts exerted to achieve that end," the Princess said, underlining the importance of directing due concern to the agricultural sector not only by planting trees but also by providing enough care for them at later stages.

Al al-Bait University President Adnan Al Bakht said one of the aims of the university was to stop desertification and to develop about 8,000 dunums of land surrounding the university.

## Egyptian moves alarm Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's military intelligence service expressed "concern" at the modernisation of the Egyptian armed forces in its annual report leaked in the Hebrew press on Tuesday.

Egypt began to update its forces last year with Western material such as U.S. M1 tanks and F-16 fighter planes. Numbers of men under arms are also increasing, according to the lead published in the Haaretz newspaper.

The report dismissed the threat of a conflict with Egypt in the short term but not in the long term.

"There could be unexpected developments on this front in 10 to 15 years time," the report warned.

Tel Aviv University's strategic studies centre lists 2,750 tanks for Egypt, but 1,800 are described as medium quality. Cairo has ordered 524 M1 tanks and has taken delivery of about 100.

The Egyptian air force fields 457 combat planes, of which 125 are F-16s. Another 50 F-16s are due for delivery.

Israel has 3,850 tanks,

some 2,000 of them mediocre, as well as 742 fighter planes including 200 F-16s, according to the centre.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's warning last week that Israel had to prepare for war in the long term angered Egypt and escalated a dispute over the Jewish state's nuclear arsenal.

In Cairo, newspapers reported that Foreign Minister Ami Ayalon would address parliament on Jan. 28 on "Israeli threats to national security."

President Ezer Weizman of Israel telephoned his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on Monday night in a bid to ease tensions over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Mr. Rabin refuses to sign.

Mr. Mubarak has threatened to refuse to sign when it comes up for renewal in April if Israel does not join the treaty.

"The time has come to restore normal, good working relations," a spokesman for Mr. Weizman said.

Egyptian deputies held a stormy debate Monday after a leaked Israeli foreign ministry report urged harsh retaliatory measures against Cairo.

"We must stand up to the impertinence and discourtesy published by the Israeli press," said deputy Mohammad Khalil.

Mr. Khalil told parliament that "such proposals deserve to be thrown in the bin" but added he was satisfied by comments from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who distanced himself from the report.

## Gulf crisis fund studying claims but has little to pay out

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special United Nations committee is continuing to process claims for compensation for losses suffered during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, but there is no clear indication of when approved claims would be settled because of lack of funds, a senior official of the panel said Monday.

Michael Raboin, assistant secretary-general of the Geneva-based committee set up after the war over Kuwait in 1991, said the panel had received "less than \$50 million" since its inception.

The budget of the committee itself is \$40 million for a four-year period covering 1995, leaving less than \$10 million available for settlement of claims, he noted.

"We have a massive operation which now involves more than 100 experts," Mr. Raboin told the Jordan Times in an interview.

In mid-1994, the U.N. fund paid out \$2.7 million to 670 claimants — including 241 Iraqis — in category "B," which deals with claims resulting from death in the family or serious personal injury suffered as a direct consequence of the seven-month Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

A second instalment of settlement, worth \$5.2 million, under the same category was drawn up in late 1994, but the governing council of the committee decided to freeze payment until it received additional funds, Mr. Raboin said.

The committee expects to have finished processing all applications in the three categories by mid- to late 1996 before starting to study claims from businesses and governments with an open-ended mandate to finish its task that would involve bil-

lions of dollars, Mr. Raboin said.

The "period of jurisdiction" of the committee Aug. 2, 1990 to March 2, 1991 — the date of the Iraqi invasion to the date when the last Iraqi soldier left Kuwait.

But the panel would consider claims beyond this period if it could be proved that the loss was a direct result of an incident that happened during that period.

Total claims filed by seven Jordanian ministries as government losses as a result of the crisis reached about \$4 billion, with an equal amount sought by individual and corporate claimants from Jordan.

Mr. Raboin, who has visited several other countries to discuss the technical aspects of Jordanian claims — individual, business and government applications — said: "We do not know when the approved claimants could receive the payments since funds are not yet available."

The U.N. official, an American national, said the committee expected to complete processing all category B claims — around 5,500 of them from all over the world — by March this year. Categories "A" and "C" — involving losses suffered as a result of forced departure from Kuwait and property and personal losses during the crisis — are also given priority. These would involve more than 100,000 applications from Jordan.

The U.N. official is scheduled to meet with representatives of the business community which have filed claims each worth more than \$100,000 for an exchange of views on how and when their claims would be processed.

Asked whether Jordan's quest for compensation for the losses it suffered as indirect result of the Gulf crisis — the de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq — was part of his discussions here, Mr.

## Sacked bishop joins homeless sit-in protest

PARIS (AFP) — Jacques Gaillot, the controversial bishop sacked by the Vatican last week, Monday joined a protest by some 100 homeless people who entered and occupied a Paris social security office, officials said. The demonstration was to protest against French social security rules which prevent people between the ages of 18-25 from receiving statutory minimum income, thereby forcing many of them onto the streets. The protesters occupied the social security office in Paris' 14th Arrondissement, and presented a list of 10 young people for whom they were demanding benefits.

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## COLUMN

### Black policemen lock out white colleagues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — About 100 black officers locked out their white colleagues at the Orlando Police Station in the nearby black township of Soweto Monday, accusing them of racism, a policemen's union said. A spokesman for the POPCRU union said the incident was sparked by a white policeman calling a black officer a "kaffir," the worst racial epithet a South African white can direct at a black. The officers reopened the gates late in the morning, after officials from the provincial government of Gauteng — which covers the greater Johannesburg area and Pretoria — negotiated with the protesters. One officer, who was not named, told a private radio station that the action aimed to protest against "the racist attitude of the commander and other superior officers."

### New Euro-MPs take their (flip-down) seats

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Fifty-nine Euro-MPs from the EU's three newest member states took their seats in the European Parliament Monday — but only after they had flipped them down and slid into place. The cinema-style tip-up seats for the new members from Austria, Finland and Sweden have been installed pending work on the enlarged Strasbourg Hemicycle, which will not be fully ready until the end of 1997. The old parliament had 567 deputies, but has been expanded to 626 with the new members. Each of the new parliamentarians — 21 from Austria, 22 from Sweden and 16 from Finland — was greeted with a bandage from parliament President Klaus Haensel. "It is a very special day," said Mr. Haensel.

### Plan to retrieve Drake's body hits trouble

LONDON (R) — A plan to retrieve the body of British buccaneer Sir Francis Drake from his watery grave in the Caribbean and bring it home for a ceremonial burial has run into trouble with the British navy. A British-led team of historians and salvage experts have raised £80,000 (\$125,000) to bring Drake to the surface after pinpointing where they believe the body of the famous 16th-century explorer lies off the Panamanian coast. But the Royal Navy is not in favour of the scheme. "It's the same thing as grave-snatching. He had an honourable burial at sea and we wish his remains to be undisturbed," a naval spokesman said Monday. "I would be very hacked off (angry) if anyone came along and nabbed (stole) my body if I'd been buried at sea," he added. However, Panamanian authorities will make the final decision about Drake's body.

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Mr. Gaillot was sacked as bishop of the Normandy city of Evreux on Friday for disobeying Catholic orthodoxy. The 59-year-old cleric upset the Catholic hierarchy by, among other things, giving interviews to the French magazine Lui and a magazine for homosexuals, Gay-P